




THE INDEPENDENT

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Why our love of animals is a load of monkeys

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Operation Ritz: meet the Prince of spin

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IN THE TUESDAY REVIEW

Teachers' anger at pay by results

TEACHERS THREATENED industrial action last night over new plans for pay by results in the classroom. The warning soured the announcement of inflation-busting pay rises from 1 April for 1.25 million public sector workers, including nurses, judges, the armed forces and civil servants.

BY COLIN BROWN, JUDITH JUDD AND BEN RUSSELL

lash after they revealed sweeping changes to teachers' pay, which will be linked partly to their pupils' exam results for the first time since the Victorian era, as part of moves to end the old system of pay increases across the board for the public sector.

A revolution in NHS pay scales is also being planned by Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, who will publish proposals for consultation "very soon" to allow more flexibility in NHS pay. This also could include performance-related pay. "It is not just for teachers. You might bring the same idea to hospitals," said the Prime Minister's official spokesman.

There was anger at the way rises are being targeted at high performers. Classroom teachers were still smarting at the news they will receive just 3.5 per cent this year while some heads will get 9.5 per cent. NHS consultants were upset at their treatment while the pay deal was directed at the nurses. Trainee nurses will be given an increase of 12 per cent to encourage recruitment and end the nurse shortage, but many nurses will get 4.7 per cent.

Civil servants were also annoyed to discover a handful of high-flying Whitehall mandarins will receive pay rises of up to 10.5 per cent after their senior salaries review body said the awards should be made to "the very few" top civil servants "whose performance has been truly exceptional". At the same time "unsatisfactory performers" will not get any rise at all. MPs, who are linked to civil service grades, will get 2.8 per cent, but that was lifted to 4.3 per cent with the second stage of an award held over from last year, raising their salaries from £45,066 to £47,008. Cabinet pay rises are likely to be held to the inflation rate of 2.8 per cent to encourage wage restraint in private sector boardrooms.

Teachers' leaders expressed anger at the plans, which go far further than any previous Government proposals for reform. Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, warned that industrial action was "nearer than it has been for many many years". He said: "Tony Blair is saying: 'Take this now and wait for something better to come.' What this shows is the 'better to come' is payment by results. There's nothing for teachers to wait for."

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, believes the changes will solve the recruitment crisis by rewarding the best teachers. "I welcome the teachers' review body's constructive approach to the need to reward good performance and I look forward to next year's exercise extending this approach to the determination of the pay of all teachers."

Teachers will be required to set targets for their pupils' performance in tests and exams each year in consultation with heads as part of the appraisal system to be introduced from 2000. Heads will assess how far the targets have been met, and then decide whether the teacher should move up the pay scale. Those who reach the top of the ordinary pay scale will be able to secure an extra £2,000 a year by taking a "test" to see whether they match up to demanding standards. The new "threshold" test

Hoddle on the defensive as his support runs out

GLENN HODDLE faces his own day of reckoning today with an announcement about whether he will be sacked as England manager over disputed comments that disabled people are being punished for sins committed in previous lives.

BY JOHN DAVISON AND LENUS GREGORIADIS

er lifetime. I have nothing to hide about that. It is not only people with disabilities. What you sow, you have to reap."

Previously, Hoddle had only said that his comments had been "misconstrued, misunderstood and misinterpreted" by the reporter. Peter Slothard, editor of *The Times*, last night hit back, saying the paper stood by its story.

The high-level coterie of five FA members who will make the final decision were yesterday conferring over the phone. Meanwhile, the man at the centre of the storm launched his counter-offensive on television. Interviewed by Trevor McDonald for ITN, he denied that he had ever made the controversial comments. "The only reason people are saying I should resign is that they are saying I have come out and said that people disabled and handicapped have been paying for their sins, and I have never, ever said that," said Hoddle. "I did not say them things and at the end of the day I want to put that on record because it has hurt people," he added. "That is the last thing I want to do, and the most important thing is to tell people that and that is more important than any football job."

This went significantly further than other comments since the row blew up on Saturday after an interview published in *The Times*. Hoddle was reported as saying: "You and I have been physically given two hands and two legs and half-decent brains. Some people have not been born like that for a reason. The karma is working from another

lifetime. I have nothing to hide about that. It is not only people with disabilities. What you sow, you have to reap."



Hoddle leaving home in Finchampstead, Berkshire, yesterday Austin Hargrave

We are wealth creators now, says Labour

CREATING WEALTH is more important than redistributing it, Stephen Byers, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, will declare in a keynote speech tonight.

BY ANDREW GRICE Political Editor

His address to a City audience at the Mansion House will anger left-wingers. It will be seen as another attempt by the Government to abandon Labour's traditional commitments. Mr Byers, who describes himself as an "outsider" to the Blair project, will say: "The Department of Trade and Industry has an important role to play in creating an environment which encourages enterprise and creates wealth and jobs. The reality is that wealth creation is more important than wealth redistribution. The reason for this is clear. It is successful and prosperous businesses which can employ more and more people and also ensure that our public finances are sound, so that we have the resources to fund those essential public services in areas like health and education."

There'll be bluebirds over the yellowing cliffs of Dover

SCIENTISTS SUSPECT that the White Cliffs of Dover, one of England's proudest symbols, are turning yellow - but they think the only way to find out for sure is to ask people.

BY CHARLES ARTHUR Technology Editor

they think that in the past few decades the 130ft chalk cliffs, which inspired returning soldiers, pilots and Dame Vera Lynn, have become discoloured. Some observers have suggested that the cliffs look increasingly dirty. The finger is

being pointed at a variety of sources - including pollution from sulphur-burning power plants in the former East Germany, diesel-powered ships or even debris from construction of the Channel Tunnel.

Clive Gilbert, environmental policy officer at Kent County Council, is less sure, however. "My favourite explanation is that the cliffs have always been a mucky, cream-green-grey colour. But recently there have been a number of fairly large cliff falls, exposing areas of pure white chalk. It's the juxtaposition of that with the older area which makes what was always a mucky look even greyer."

Cliff collapses on the South Coast have increased lately, with the most dramatic at Beachy Head, East Sussex, last month, when thousands of tons of rock fell into the sea.

The greying of older rock is caused by algae that live on its surface, feeding on micro-organisms inside it. But yellowing might be caused by chemical reactions, especially with sulphurous compounds, at the rock's surface. Now, a council survey will ask people if they think the cliffs are indeed changing colour. Older residents' recollections will be particularly important. The survey will also ask what "value" people put on the cliffs, as part of an attempt to put some sort of price tag on their "cultural and environmental capital".

How to become a freelance writer

by NICK DAWES

Freelance writing can be creative, fulfilling and a lot of fun, with excellent money to be made as well. What's more, anyone can become a writer. No special qualifications or experience are required. The market for writers is huge. In Britain alone there are around 1,000 daily, Sunday and weekly papers, and more than 8,000 magazines. Many of the stories and articles that they publish are supplied by freelancers. Then there are books, theatre, films, TV, radio...

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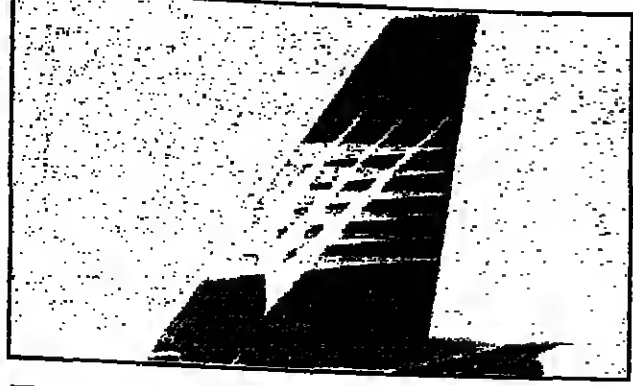
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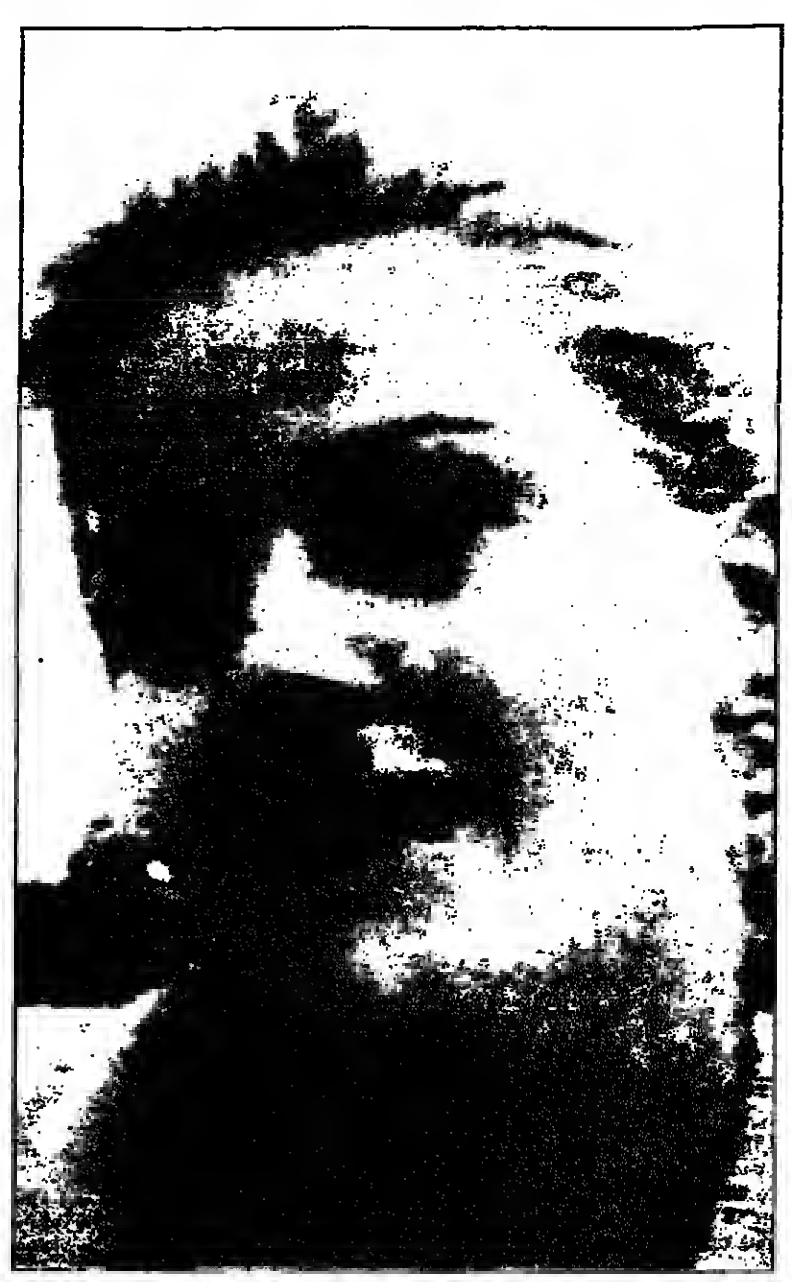
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High dudgeon after mid-air brawl leads to forced landing

Ginn accused of killing soldiers

Michael Ginn, a 36-year-old man, was accused of killing two British soldiers during a riot in the town of Basra, Iraq, in February 1998. Ginn was shot dead by British soldiers during the riot. The incident occurred during a period of civil unrest in Basra, which was then under British military control. Ginn was one of several people who were killed during the riot. The British military has since been accused of human rights abuses in Basra, including the killing of civilians and the use of excessive force.



Two of 12 passengers who forced a holiday jet to divert after a mid-air brawl. The passengers, now in Virginia, could face a huge bill for the re-routing of the plane PA

AIR RAGE: A SHORT HISTORY OF TROUBLE IN THE SKIES



Fiona Weir: scarred for life

Air rage incidents in the past year have included:

FEBRUARY 1998: Three British Airways stewardesses attacked by model Lorna Dow, 30, from Manchester, after she found a lavatory engaged on a flight to New York. She had been drinking champagne and cannabis tea. US police held her for three days.

OCTOBER 1998: Steven Handy banned for life from planes, trains and ferries after he attacked Airtours stewardess Fiona Weir when drunk on a flight to Malaga. The stewardess, scarred for life, required 40 stitches in her head and arm.

JANUARY 1999: Seven staff and passengers needed to overpower and handcuff 36-year-old man on BA flight from Johannesburg after he allegedly assaulted four crew members just one hour into the flight to Heathrow.

JANUARY 1999: BA forced to divert Bangkok bound Boeing 747 to Delhi after Lee Thresher punches out aircraft inner window and bites woman's headphones in half. He had taken a mixture of drink and pills.

APRIL 1998: Businessman John Henson, 33, fined £6,700 after he threatened to kill the pilot and butt a passenger. He smashed a seat and indecently assaulted a stewardess on a BA flight from Gatwick to Orlando. The aircraft was forced to divert to Boston amid safety fears.

NOVEMBER 1998: Former Stone Roses star Ian Brown jailed after losing appeal against a four month sentence for threatening to chop off the hands of an air stewardess. The judge said he wanted to send a strong message to others who indulged in "loutish behaviour" while airborne.



GARY FINN Ian Brown: jailed for threats

IT IS every air traveller's nightmare. A drunken passenger goes berserk on board a packed jet cruising at 35,000ft, attacking the stewardesses and threatening to kick open one of the aeroplane doors. An unprecedented aviation disaster is just seconds away.

"Air rage" - the descendant of "road rage" - is now a more common, or at least a more reported, event. With drinks widely available, and long-haul flights cheaper than ever, there is growing concern about what is happening in the air.

Airlines in Britain have reported a 400 per cent increase in "air rage" attacks over the last three years. The Civil Aviation Authority said yesterday that there were 108 incidents involving disruptive passengers in 1997 alone.

Even more alarming are the figures compiled by the police. They claim that two "medium-sized" UK airlines recorded 1,190 incidents between them.

In the latest incident, reported yesterday, 12 passengers were thrown off an Airtours Boeing 767 heading for the Caribbean amid claims of a mass mid-air brawl. The pilot was forced to make an unscheduled stop at a US airport.

According to the airline, some of the 12, six men and six women on their "dream holiday", were drunk. A fight broke out and the pilot was forced to act.

The passengers disagree. Irish-born Miles Connor, 35, who was one of the people ejected from the Jamaican-bound flight, said they had simply been enjoying a "old fashioned Irish sing-song" when another passenger threw a drink over him. "There wasn't even a fight. No

pouches were thrown, just a few words were exchanged - but they threw all 12 of us off, there were no blows, nothing. The biggest injustice is that the other man, who threw the drink, was allowed to carry on on the flight."

The airline vehemently disagrees with the passengers' version of events. Captain David Parsons, the flight operations director for Airtours, said: "The supervisor tried to calm the situation, with the normal calming techniques we teach our crews, but it didn't work. She went to the captain and said, 'It's

getting quite frightening, can you divert, and he did just that," he said.

Last night Airtours was threatening legal action to try to recover some of the £15,000 to £20,000 it cost to divert the plane to Norfolk International Airport in Virginia. Airtours said it had also asked police at Gatwick to investigate the incident. Under the Air Navigation Order, offences allegedly committed in the air aboard a British-registered aircraft fall within the jurisdiction of British police to investigate. The passengers had

been banned for life from flying with Airtours.

The 12 have now abandoned their holiday - but they have also been refused seats on two flights out of America, according to police at Norfolk airport.

Another passenger, Francis Coyle, said the trouble started when a man passed a remark about another passenger's wife and a drink was thrown. "There were no punches. There was shouting and a drink was thrown. But there was no fighting," he said.

"Everybody was a bit high-

spirited. They had quite a few drinks. They were tipsy, but not really drunk. I got up and told them to sit down and they did. About half-an-hour later, we were told the plane was going to be diverted. It was nothing to do with the rest of us. I am going to take legal action over this. I am stuck here in Virginia. My wife is in tears. We have not done anything."

Yesterday airlines and police chiefs held the first of a series of meetings set up by the Government in November after a drunken passenger slashed an

air stewardess with a vodka bottle on board an Airtours flight to Malaga.

John Reid, the Transport minister, said he was pressing other countries to follow the UK and bring in laws allowing them to take action against offenders on board foreign-owned planes. He said airlines and police forces had agreed to collect data on "air rage" incidents to measure the scale of the problem and detect trends.

The airline industry criticised the decision not to take action in America and called on the UK

Government to bring in tougher sentences for people who put fellow passengers in danger. But it backed away from calling for a ban on the sale of alcohol on board, saying this would hit the "99.9 per cent" of passengers who caused no trouble.

Howard Davies, director-general of the British Air Transport Association, said: "We are looking to Government for much stricter penalties and we would be looking for automatic compensation to airlines for the inconvenience caused by re-routing a flight."

Cars cost 50 per cent more in Britain

BRITISH CONSUMERS are paying up to 50 per cent more for popular makes of car than their European counterparts, according to an official EU survey.

The research showed the UK is the most expensive place to buy 57 of the 76 best-selling models - including some Rovers - although the differentials have decreased since last year, when a Commission study showed that 60 of 74 cars cost more in Britain.

An EU statement on the motor trade, published yesterday, concedes that price differentials have narrowed because of currency movements and efforts on the part of manufacturers. But it adds: "There are indications that many car producers increased prices in so-called cheap markets rather than reducing

COST OF CARS IN BRITAIN		
	Price Differentials	From cheapest European country
Rover 214	51.9%	France
Alfa Romeo 145	45.3%	Spain
Fiat Bravo	45.0%	Netherlands
Rover 414	43.1%	Portugal
Rover 620	41.2%	Sweden
Mazda Demio	39.8%	Spain
Fiat Marela	38.7%	Ireland
Mazda 323	37.8%	Netherlands
Daihatsu Gran Move	37.3%	Denmark
Alfa Romeo 156	36.9%	Netherlands
Mitsubishi Colt	35.9%	Italy

bought in the UK costs more than half as much again as the same model purchased in France; an Alfa Romeo 145 costs 45 per cent more than the same car bought in Spain.

At the other end of the scale, the cheapest car prices in the EU are generally in Portugal, Spain, the Netherlands and Sweden. In only one case - the BMW 735i - was Britain the cheapest marketplace. That makes it "attractive for consumers - and in particular UK residents - to buy a car abroad", the Commission says.

Yesterday the Society of

Motor Manufacturers and Traders argued that the discrepancies were based on the high value of the pound.

Because of the length of time it takes to develop and produce cars, manufacturers have to budget in advance and are therefore vulnerable to exchange-rate movements, the society says.

A spokesman for the organisation added: "Currency differentials explain the difference in price. 'We have seen the gap has narrowed; what we need to see is the pound weakening still further to achieve parity'."

But a European Commission official blamed pricing strategies too, and argued that manufacturers' "windfalls" from beneficial currency movements were not being passed on to consumers. Consumers' rights

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Racehorse owner held as drugs ring suspect

A SUCCESSFUL racehorse owner was among 10 people arrested yesterday as part of a suspected international cocaine smuggling ring worth millions of pounds.

Detectives seized 169kg of cocaine, with a street value of £12m, at a house in Ostend, Belgium, which was thought to have been destined for Britain.

Graham Piper was arrested yesterday at his home in Wendover, Buckinghamshire, where he and his wife own a number of racehorses including the highly rated Nipper Reed. Detectives spent yesterday

searching their farm for documents and papers.

The raid was part of an international two-year inquiry codenamed Operation Pierrot. Police believe the operation, organised by the National Crime Squad (NCS), has broken up one of Britain's biggest drug gangs.

"The operation has dismantled what had been identified by the National Criminal Intelligence Service as one of the major drug trafficking organisations within the UK and will

hopefully lead to the confiscation of assets in excess of £3m," police said in a statement.

Detectives were investigating a number of suspected cocaine and cannabis smuggling networks that brought drugs into Britain from South America and Morocco via Europe.

As part of the inquiry six people were arrested on Sunday evening - although details were only released yesterday - at Heathrow airport and other locations throughout the South-east of England.

Five men and one woman were arrested and premises searched at Wendover, Runwell, Wickford and Clayhill, in Essex; and Bushey and Watford in Hertfordshire. The six were being questioned yesterday.

The eight-year-old Nipper Reed is considered a contender for the Arke Challenge Trophy Chase at the Cheltenham Festival next month.

The raids followed the seizure of 189kg of cocaine in Ostend on Sunday by the Belgian gendarmes on behalf of the NCS. A Belgian man was arrested during the raid.

Four more people were arrested yesterday as part of the

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Dangerous precedent is set on pay

THE SHAPE of yesterday's public-sector pay awards was decided long before the Cabinet sat down to approve them last Thursday.

When Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for Health, addressed the Royal College of Nursing annual conference in April last year, he hoped that the 1999 wage deal for the nurses would be paid in one go rather than phased in to reduce its overall value.

His speech raised Treasury hackles but he had not meant to "bounce" the Cabinet or announce policy on the hoof.

However, some quick "spin" by the Royal College of Nursing press office converted his aspiration into a firm

BY ANDREW GRACE
Political Editor

pledge. There was no turning back. Mr Dobson did not have to threaten to resign to ensure this year's awards were paid in full from April for the first time in five years.

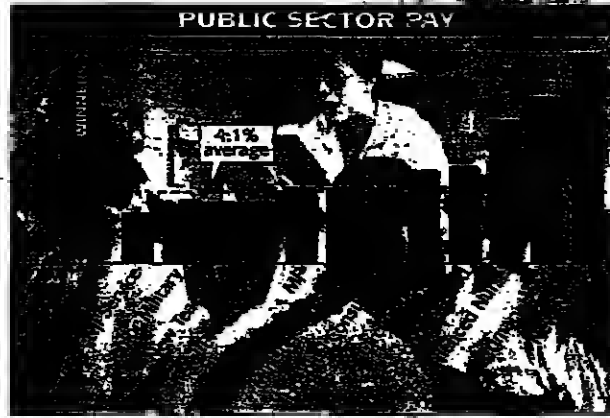
But he would have felt honour-bound to quit if they had been phased in. Mr Dobson is one of the Cabinet's unexpected stars, despite holding one of its most difficult jobs.

Although he could savour yesterday's good news for newly qualified nurses, he is not out of the woods yet over Labour's ambitious election pledge to cut NHS waiting-lists by 100,000.

Once it became politically impossible to stage the nurses' pay rise, other ministers, such as David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, argued that the Government could not discriminate against groups such as the teachers.

So by the time the Cabinet met last week, Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, was resigned to paying the recommendations of the five review bodies in full. Making a virtue out of necessity, he described them as "affordable and right".

Although Downing Street claimed that the Bank of England's monetary policy committee would be relaxed about the 4.1 per cent average pay



rise announced yesterday, the generous package is bound to leave the self-styled Iron Chancellor looking a little rusty in the City. After ending the recent tradition of reducing the public-sector wage bill by staging the awards, it will be very difficult

for the Government to put the genie back in the bottle.

When next year's public-pay settlement takes effect, we could be 12 months away from the next general election.

Although Mr Brown is adept at conjuring up extra cash, the danger is that public-sector pay will soak up much of the money earmarked for improving frontline services.

Ministers hope to square the circle by moving towards a radical overhaul of the way the public sector pays its staff.

Moves towards performance-related pay for teachers, bitterly opposed by their trade unions, will be followed soon by similar proposals for the National Health Service.

Ministers want to end the system of rigid pay structures based on length of service rather than performance.

This will prove a bitter pill for health workers to swallow, and could even produce the most serious conflict between the trade unions and the Government in the lifetime of this parliament.

It will not prove easy for ministers to "divide and rule", as shown by yesterday's criticism of the big differential between the pay rise for head teachers and classroom teachers.

The Tories tried to "decentralise" NHS pay by introducing local bargaining but backed off in the face of strong opposition. So Labour will need

to offer plenty of sweeteners to persuade NHS workers to swallow it.

But there is no doubt that Tony Blair intends to grasp the nettle. In a speech last week, billed by Downing Street as praising the dedication of public-sector employees, he warned that the Government may need to slaughter some "sacred cows".

He asked: "Do we need greater differentials within the public sector? Should we decentralise pay more? What are the lessons of performance pay and where else should we be using it?" Mr Blair already knows the answers, but whether the unions will accept them is quite another matter.

£70m extra needed for teachers

EDUCATION

CLASS SIZES will rise and teachers will be sacked unless the Government finds another £70m for teachers' pay, local authority leaders said last night. Ministers retorted that this year's increase in the amount councils are allowed to spend - 5.7 per cent - would more than cover the bill.

Graham Lane, chairman of the Local Government Association's education committee, said it was demanding a meeting with ministers to ask for the extra money. "We will be meeting ministers soon and pressing them to use some of the £1bn which has been put aside for restructuring the whole of teachers' pay to avert a cash crisis for education authorities," he said.

But senior government sources said: "Local authorities have been given £1.1bn extra this year. The cost of this settlement is less than half that extra money. There is another £160m on top of that to reduce class sizes."

The overall pay bill will go up by 3.6 per cent. The pay of a newly qualified graduate outside London will rise from £15,012 to £15,537 from April. From September the head teacher of a typical small primary school will receive

BY JUDITH JUDD
AND BEN RUSSELL

£33,552, up from £30,651, and the head of a large secondary will earn £57,570 compared with £54,552 now.

Secondary school head teachers will be able to earn up to £70,000 but all head teachers' pay will be more closely linked to performance.

The Liberal Democrat education spokesman, Don Foster, said: "This award will not help keep good teachers, let alone persuade keen young graduates to enter the profession."

The Conservative education spokesman, David Willetts, added: "We welcome this settlement, but we need to be clear about how it is funded."

"David Blunkett [the Secretary of State for Education and Employment] goes around saying about how much he puts into education, but not much of it is reaching local authorities and schools."

Mr Blunkett said the Green Paper on performance-related pay to be implemented next year would "make the teaching profession better paid and more attractive" with the opportunity of initial increases of up to 10 per cent based on performance and assessment.

THE PRIMARY HEAD

Sheila Wainwright
Twenty-two years' experience as a head teacher has brought Sheila Wainwright a salary of £30,000 a year. The pay deal will add anything from £1,800 to £2,700.

Mrs Wainwright, who is responsible for 15 staff and 180 children at St John's Church of England Primary School in Dewsbury, West Yorkshire, is pleased with the rise announced yesterday and hopes it will herald a decent pay rise for classroom staff.

"The increase is most welcome, and we have to see it hopefully as a first step towards increasing rewards for the whole profession. Recently pay has not acknowledged the increase in responsibility we have as heads... the increase in responsibility in the past five years has been astonishing. It is hard to say what is going to happen, but we are going to have to make many more decisions about performance-related pay in particular."

"Head teachers deserve a reward. We need to acknowledge that heads have a tremendous workload."



THE PRIMARY TEACHER

Ralph Surman
Ralph Surman, 34, is not impressed by the 3.5 per cent pay award to classroom teachers. He has been working at Cantrell Primary School in Nottingham for 12 years, and stands to gain £770 on top of the £22,000-a-year salary that is the average for primary school staff.

"People will be disappointed," he said. "They will think that a courageous government would have put its hands in its pockets and given teachers what they deserve to close the gap with similar jobs. I don't think this bodes well for teachers in the classroom, who are raising standards across the country."

He does not begrudge heads their rise, but fears ministers are placating school managers to smooth the introduction of performance-related pay. "I think people will see a link with the Green Paper on pay and conditions. I wonder whether this is a settlement by which the Government will bring in performance-related pay by buying head teachers off," he said.



Nurses get biggest rise in a decade

HEALTH

IT WAS the biggest pay rise for nurses for 10 years, according to Frank Dobson - but they were still beaten by the doctors.

Overall, most nurses (about 300,000) were awarded increases of 4.7 per cent, as expected, with the biggest rises of 12 per cent going to 27,000 newly qualified staff - taking the minimum starting salary to £14,400. A further 70,000 of the lowest-paid received rises of 8.2 per cent.

But general practitioners did better with a rise of 3.5 per cent this year plus a further 4 per cent held over from last year, giving an overall rise of 7.65 per cent, equivalent to a cash increase of £4,245. From 1 April, full-time GPs will earn

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

£59,715 on average and the highest-paid consultant with an A-plus distinction award £120,130 compared with the highest-paid nurse who will earn £28,485. All the rises are to be paid in full, as recommended by the pay review bodies, without staging.

The biggest gainers are the 5,000 newly qualified nurses in the capital who benefit, in addition to the 12 per cent rise, from a 15.4 per cent hike in the London allowance. It is the first such rise in five years, taking it to £2,205 in the inner city. In inner London the starting pay for all newly qualified nurses

will be £17,325, compared with the current figure of £14,765.

The announcement, which had been heavily trailed and contained few surprises, drew a subdued response from the unions and a warning from NHS managers that the rises were unaffordable.

Christine Hancock, general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing, said the increase in starting salaries was welcome but "4.7 per cent simply isn't going to be enough to keep these experienced and highly skilled women and men in the NHS".

The British Medical Association accused Mr Dobson of rejecting a central plank of the doctors' pay review body report, which called for an extra £50m to be paid to consultants in 2000-2001 to compensate them for a rising workload.

Dr Ian Bogle, chairman of the BMA said: "It is totally unacceptable that this recommendation has not been accepted by the Government. Senior hospital doctors will feel a deep sense of betrayal."

Mr Dobson announced that £100m would be transferred to health authorities from the £1bn NHS Modernisation Fund - of which about £350m is remaining after spending on cutting waiting lists and setting up Primary Care Groups - to help to pay for the increases. He said there had always been an element in the fund for upgrading pay and claimed this would not jeopardise plans to modernise the service.

"There is sufficient money included in the three-year £21bn settlement for staffing requirements and for investment



THE NURSES

Monika Hirst, 36, (left) community staff nurse in Parkside, north-west London, on E grade. Qualified in 1985. Salary (before the rise) £16,312.

"The 12 per cent should have been paid across the board. A rise of 4.7 per cent will do nothing to retain nurses like me. I am considering leaving. I have looked at care work in social services and the voluntary sector, which is better paid, and I wouldn't have to work weekends or unsocial hours."

"It is such a shame. I like nursing. I go to people's homes doing dressings and giving injections - whatever nursing they need. But as a single parent with a daughter and a mortgage I can't afford to live on the salary. It is very hard meeting those payments on the house and car."

In new buildings, new equipment and new ways of working," he said.

However, the NHS Confederation, representing NHS trusts and health authorities, insisted that the rises could not be met, even with the extra £100m, without scaling down expected developments in the service.

The Confederation calculated that next year's historically generous 6.6 per cent cash increase for health authorities would be 12 points short of the total needed to meet the cost of this year's pay award, the full-year cost of last year's staged award and other centrally imposed measures such as the modernisation of mental health services and compliance with European

Nora Pearce, 50, (right) midwifery sister, Kingston Hospital, London, on G grade. Qualified in 1985. Salary (before the rise) £19,775.

"I am absolutely delighted at the big rise for newly qualified nurses. We need to get the girls in and they need a decent salary when they get their degree. But if we do nothing to retain the girls who have been qualified 15 or 20 years and who are senior staff nurses at the top of E grade. They are the backbone of the NHS and they are taken for granted."

"I am married with four grown-up children. I am not poor but I feel badly paid for what I do. When I compare the responsibility I have with that of people who are better paid, that's when I feel aggrieved. If I have a bad hair day, someone is going to die."

Union working time directives. Stephen Thornton, chief executive, said: "The pay increases are sensible and will improve recruitment. But for the core improvements in cancer and heart disease services that have been trumpeted by the Government we will have to wait another year. It is going to be a tough year for the NHS next year."

High-flying mandarins given 10.5%

CIVIL SERVICE

A HANDFUL of Britain's most senior civil servants will receive a pay increase of 10.5 per cent as the Government moves to reward high-flyers. But leaders of the civil servants' union declared their disappointment yesterday at a pay award that fails to guarantee an increase in salary.

While the highest and lowest salaries for each of the civil service grades will increase by 2.8 per cent, any movement within the scale will depend entirely on performance. It is recommended that the "truly exceptional" should rocket from the bottom to the top of their salary bands.

Yesterday's award, under the recommendations of the senior salaries review body, will mean that the top and bottom salaries for grade ones, the old rank of assistant secretary, will go up from £40,418 to £41,550 and £63,482 to £65,270 respectively. The minimum for the 35 permanent secretaries, the most senior civil servants, will rise from £95,719 to £98,400 and the maximum from £164,318 to £168,910.

Jonathan Baume, general secretary of the First Division Association, the union for senior civil servants, urged ministers to review the whole system of productivity-related salaries. "It is hard to understand and demotivates staff," said Mr Baume. "There is a hard lesson here for other public-sector workers facing performance pay."

Paul Noone, general secretary elect of the IPMS union, which represents scientists and

BY BARBARIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

other specialists, pointed out that senior officials were receiving the lowest award so far announced for public servants. "It makes no sense to discriminate against the very people who are charged with implementing the Government's agenda for modernising public services," he said.

MPs and junior ministers will receive an automatic 2.8 per cent plus a further 1.5 per cent left over from staged awards in 1998.

Judges' salaries will rise by 3.5 per cent, which also includes increases left over from last year. The salary range will move from £70,800-£148,802 to £74,464-£157,511.

Lower ranks in the armed forces are to receive marginally better treatment on pay than their superiors. While major generals and above will have to prove their worth to enjoy a pay increase, privates and lieutenants will receive an automatic rise of 3.6 per cent and 3.7 per cent respectively. The minimum for privates will increase from £10,700 to £11,111 and lieutenants from £26,000 to £26,900. The maximum salary for a full general, an air chief marshal and an admiral will rise by 3.3 per cent from £107,800 to £111,300. The minimum of £96,000 will stay the same.

George Robertson, Secretary of State for Defence, said the salary costs of £210m would be contained within expenditure limits announced in July.

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High-flying mandarins even 10.5% CIVIL SERVICE

Louise Sullivan and a woman believed to be her mother leaving the Old Bailey yesterday *Peter Macdiarmid*

Baby case mother flees court in tears

THE AUSTRALIAN navy who has admitted shaking to death a baby in her care used the outdated "shake and shout" method of dealing with a convulsive child because she lacked the ability to stop and think, the Old Bailey was told yesterday.

Louise Sullivan, 27, has a below-average IQ of 81, which makes it difficult for her to deal with problems in a flexible way, a forensic psychologist, Sarah Henley, told the court. Sullivan had wrongly thought that the baby, Caroline Jongsma, was having a fit while feeding and acted according to the way she had been taught at college in Australia.

Ms Henley said Sullivan was unable to adapt to new skills. "The [psychological] tests would suggest she would deal with it in the way she had been taught," she said.

"She would certainly lack the ability to stop and think," Ms

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

Henley said the IQ put Sullivan "at the bottom end of the low-average range of intellectual functioning".

Ms Henley, a defence witness, said she had tested Sullivan on three occasions.

She said: "Miss Sullivan functions in a very concrete, rigid way. It is particularly related to judgement and particularly to an inability to be flexible."

The evidence came during a hearing to sentence Sullivan, 27, who two weeks ago admitted shaking Caroline to death last April while working as a nanny at the Jongsma's north London home.

She pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter and has been warned she faces a prison sentence.

Caroline's mother, Muriel Jongsma, ran sobbing from the courtroom after she heard from a psychiatrist that Sullivan still dreams of the infant, who died aged six months.

Dr Henry Kennedy, a consultant psychiatrist and member of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, who interviewed Sullivan five times, told the court: "She told me not a day goes by when she does not remember baby Caroline. She thinks of what Caroline would be doing now if she was still alive."

"She dreams about the baby and describes the dreams as distinctly dramatic and upsetting. She finds this emotionally comforting."

"It is a very common phenomenon among people who are going through the loss of someone who're very fond of. Her expressions of grief and remorse are genuine."

A series of character witnesses who had employed Sullivan as a nanny or child minder spoke of a "friendly" woman, keen to care for children. The court heard testimony by video link from an Australian journalist, Marnie Lonsdale, who said that she had employed Sullivan for nine months with no problems. "She was a good nanny but needed direction," Ms Lonsdale said.

Nadine Radford QC, for the defence, asked the judge, Mr Justice Mitchell, to consider other expert evidence, which suggested that Caroline's injuries could have been caused by shaking in a manner not as severe as the prosecution had alleged. She also called witnesses including Dr Kennedy, who said that they were told Sullivan would be at very high risk of harming herself should she be sent to prison.

Sullivan was freed on bail to await her sentence.

Menopause may soon be postponed

SCIENTISTS MAY soon be able to delay the onset of the menopause by turning off the body's genetic "switch" responsible for bringing about the change of life in middle-aged women.

The research has important implications for understanding the damaging side-effects of the menopause, which is caused when a woman's ovaries go into decline and stop producing female hormones.

Researchers have extended the working life of ovaries in a strain of laboratory mouse that had one of its genes deleted. The "bax" gene normally controls the gradual destruction of follicle egg cells in the two ovaries. Jonathan Tilly, who led the research team at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, said the understanding of what controls the menopause has "major implications" for women.

"This will have enormous impact in terms of understanding the changes in women's health associated with the menopause."

"It is a little premature to talk about the applications of our research to humans but for the first time we now have an animal model that may allow us to extend the lifetime of ovaries in humans." The research is published in the journal *Nature Genetics*.

Menopause usually occurs between the ages of 45 and 55 and involves a gradual reduction in the levels of the hormones progesterone and oestrogen, which can lead to the thinning of blood vessels as well as having direct effects on the nervous system.

Women can experience hot swings, loss of libido, anxiety and depression as well as suffering physical symptoms such as osteoporosis (brittle-bone disease), headaches, "hot flushes" and an increased risk of heart disease.

Dr Tilly said that if the studies on mice can lead to a method of delaying menopause by interfering with the body's genetic switch, it would provide a more natural alternative to hormone replacement therapy.

"The problem with HRT is that we can never quite replicate what the body does naturally. This new approach would in effect be a natural hormone-replacement therapy, because the ovaries keep on functioning." Another area of interest would be to understand what happens in women who experience premature menopause in their twenties or thirties, he said.

Menopause is characterised by the exhaustion of the finite number of egg cells a woman is endowed with at birth and uses during the course of her reproductive life.

Dr Tilly and his colleagues were able to show that they can prevent the process of "cell suicide" within the ovary, which normally results in the destruction of egg cells and with them the loss of hormone production. Mice with the genetic switch destroyed continued to have viable ovaries with healthy egg cells well into old age, when they usually suffer a deterioration of ovary tissue that is similar although not identical to what happens in the human menopause.

The scientists found that the old mice which still had functioning ovaries showed signs of retaining many of the faculties that deteriorate in normal females, although tests on bone, heart muscle and brain tissues have yet to prove this, Dr Tilly said.

However, when the older females with rejuvenated ovaries were put in cages with males, they did not become pregnant, showing that fertility is not retained, he added.

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

Rescued climber risks amputation

CLIMBER who was rescued after spending five days trapped on a mountain in temperatures down to minus 60C, said he was "lucky" to still wait at least a week to find if his fingers and toes will live to be amputated.

Jamie Andrew, 29, from Edinburgh, who was plucked off a ledge on Les Droites, near the French resort of Chamonix on Monday, is in hospital with severe frostbite. The body of his friend Jamie Fisher, 23, was due to be returned to Britain today.

By KATE WATSON-SMYTH

A spokesman for Chamonix hospital said Mr Andrew's condition was stable. "He will stay here for at least a week."

Mr Fisher's mother, Pam, said yesterday that her son had died doing what he loved.

She praised the rescuers who tried to save him and said she was relieved that Mr Andrew had survived.

The two climbers were experienced and well-equipped.

MILES KINGTON **What do you think Man United's players were in a previous incarnation?**

IN THE TUESDAY REVIEW **PAGE 2**

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80

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Met ready to 'take beating on Lawrence'

BY KATHY MARKS

THE METROPOLITAN Police is prepared to "take a beating" when the report of the Stephen Lawrence inquiry is published this month, John Grieve, the senior Scotland Yard officer in charge of investigating racially motivated crime, said yesterday.

He acknowledged that serious mistakes were made in the investigation of Stephen's murder by a white racist gang in 1993.

Asked whether he believed there was institutional racism in the force, Deputy Assistant Commissioner Grieve told BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme: "There are wider issues for society here."

"We are not going to hide behind other people's racism; we will take our beating in the next couple of weeks, as we ought to do. But somebody ought to look seriously at the spiritual sickness in society."

Mr Grieve is head of the Metropolitan Police's racial and violent crimes taskforce. His readiness to accept the harsh criticisms expected in Sir William Macpherson of Cluny's report was in marked contrast to the attitude of the main police organisations, which have launched concerted attacks on the credibility of the inquiry over the past week.

The Police Federation, which represents the lower ranks, and the Police Superintendents' Association, which speaks for senior officers, accused the inquiry team of being hostile to the police and obsessed with identifying in-



Grieve: Expects criticism

stitutional racism. Federation officials claimed that the inquiry had failed to give police witnesses a fair hearing. Chief Superintendent Peter Gammmon, of the Police Superintendents' Association, said it had vilified police. "Accusations of racism are still being levelled at officers involved and at the police service as a whole," Mr Gammmon said last week.

Sir Paul Condon, the Commissioner, denied that there was institutional racism in the Metropolitan Police when he gave evidence to the inquiry.

Mr Grieve side-stepped the issue yesterday, saying that the inquiry had heard 15 different definitions of institutional racism. "My Commissioner has said, 'Yes, we have got racism, yes, we have got racism, yes, some of our policies are downright discriminatory,'" he said.

"The Commissioner's position is: what is he being

asked to put his hands up to? When someone tightens up the definition for us, when someone tells us... what concrete steps we should be taking, then we can have a look at what we are doing."

Asked for his own definition, Mr Grieve quoted a line from a poem by a black writer, Andrea Cook: "It's in the way you choose, the way we lose."

No one has been convicted of Stephen's murder, and all but one of the senior officers who carried out the investigation are now retired.

Mr Grieve, a former head of the Anti-Terrorist Branch, said lessons had been learnt from the case. His own taskforce had arrested 400 people for racially motivated crime since it was set up last July.

"We are trying to make London and indeed the country a hostile environment for racists," he said. "All of us can't spend all of our time looking back and serially apologising for what happened in the past."

"We have moved to repair the issues. We have apologised to the family. Doreen and Neville Lawrence (Stephen's parents) have done wonderful things for the country and for our communities here in London. But we have to move on. We are looking at new ways of dealing with these kinds of crimes."

Asked if he appreciated that people wanted to see the officers responsible for the mistakes in the Lawrence case brought to account, Mr Grieve replied, cryptically: "Yes, and I am looking at that now."



Carl Josephs, who lost his claim of racial harassment. He said police stopped him 34 times in two years

Claire Lam / Newstream

Driver loses race harassment case

BY DAMIEN PEARSE

A BLACK motorist who claimed he was stopped by police 34 times in two years because of his colour lost his court claim of racial harassment yesterday.

Carl Josephs, 27, a butcher, made British legal history when he sued the West Midlands police force for racial harassment, false imprisonment and unlawful arrest. Police had never before been sued for racial harassment in a civil court.

But a jury at a County Court in Birmingham rejected his claims that he was persecuted

by officers from the West Midlands force who he said conspired against him between autumn 1994 and November 1996. A panel of four men and four women deliberated for nearly ten hours before reaching their decision. The jurors are still to decide damages on one case of unlawful arrest which Judge Richard Wakeley directed them to find for the plaintiff.

Mr Josephs, 27, of Bromford Bridge, Birmingham, who has

no previous convictions and a clean driving licence, claimed he was stopped 34 times in his distinctive red Metro car with the words One Love on the side and a Jamaican flag draped on the back.

West Midlands Police denied all the allegations.

Mr Josephs was awarded £1,000 for unlawful arrest, which took place in September 1996. The amount was decided after an agreement between counsel for the defendant and the plaintiff.

The damages were awarded

at the end of an 11-day hearing that was given evidence by more than a dozen officers based at police stations in the north of Birmingham.

The court was told Mr Josephs began to get stopped after making a complaint against police in 1992 for which he was awarded £250 compensation. He told the jury that he was stopped on many occasions without legitimate reason, and on one occasion police had threatened to plant drugs in his car, he claimed. He said he was eventually forced to leave his

car at home and catch the bus to work because of the amount of times he was being asked to produce his documents at police stations.

A doctor told the jury that Mr Josephs had suffered from stress as a result of the stops and eventually needed to take sleeping pills.

After the case Mr Josephs said: "I'm very disappointed and to be honest, quite surprised. I personally think it sends out the wrong message to the community." He said he was considering an appeal.

GNER refuses to buy trains until it wins franchise deal

THE COMPANY that runs Britain's longest stretch of high-speed railway provoked an outcry yesterday by saying it would not pay for new trains to relieve overcrowding unless the Government extended its seven-year franchise.

Great North Eastern Railway (GNER), which operates the East Coast main line between London and Scotland, said it had asked ministers to extend its right to run trains for another eight years in exchange for buying up to 10 more tilting trains and building three new stations.

It said the new stock would allow it to carry 25 per cent more people within four years but warned that, without the new stock, it would only grow by 5 per cent. GNER said it had been the victim of its own success, running more trains and attracting 18 per cent more passengers since it took over

BY PHILIP THORNTON
Transport Correspondent

the line in 1996. GNER, part of the Sea Containers group, said its franchise should also be extended to show poorly performing rivals such as Virgin how to run a railway properly.

Christopher Garnett, GNER chief executive, said: "We are looking to bring in eight or 10 tilting trains. That's what the route needs to deal with the capacity problems but that only deals with today's problems."

He said if the franchise was not extended the company would not fulfil a promise issued in September 1997 to buy two new tilting trains. He said GNER had underestimated the cost of upgrading the track to take the trains and it would be uneconomic for only two.

GNER's comments provoked an angry response from a senior



GNER: The company wants eight extra years to make investment worthwhile

Labour backbencher Andrew Bennett, a member of the Commons Transport Select Committee, said GNER knew the position when it accepted the franchise. "If they don't deliver what they promised then they should lose their contract."

He said GNER's bid was an "outright cheek" as privatisation had so far ensured that shareholders got "the caviar and cream" while passengers suffered overcrowding.

Save Our Railways, a pressure group, said more passengers made the need for new trains more urgent. "Sea Containers have broken all the promises they have made to passengers about new trains and the inevitable result is more overcrowding. Now that overcrowding is being used to try to blackmail the Government to extend the franchise."

But Mr Garnett said GNER had invested £40m against a

franchise promise of £22m, adding: "We are spending phenomenal amounts of money."

Mr Garnett blamed poor performance by other train companies for bringing the industry into disrepute. "We have the best level of service of any train company. One of the ways to raise standards is to give GNER an extension to say to other companies - 'if you had their levels of service then your franchise would be extended'."

Rapists increase use of drugs on victims

UPTO four suspected serial sex attackers are being investigated for using so-called "date rape" drugs to intoxicate their victims before assaulting them.

The number of reports of sex assaults committed under the influence of drugs such as Rohypnol and "GBH" has risen rapidly in the past couple of years. The police and Home Office are to carry out a 12-month national study to investigate the extent of the problem.

The Scotland Yard detectives heading the inquiry have already obtained information about "three or four" men who have been accused of drugging women and then raping and sexually assaulting them. A police spokeswoman would not give any details of the inquiries except to say they were throughout Britain. "There are three or four cases in various stages of investigation," she said.

In London the number of alleged sex crimes in which men have been suspected of using drugs to disarm their victims have risen from 18 in 1997 to 49 in the first nine months of last year.

BY JASON BENNETT
Crime Correspondent

The results, however, have all been negative and detectives believe the increase could be due to a rise in public concern and awareness.

The issue of "date rape" drugs, particularly the substance Rohypnol, has caused growing concern since sex offenders in the United States started using them. There are about 1,000 known cases in the US that involve assaults on women, men and children.

The drugs are usually secretly placed into a victim's drink in tablet or liquid form. In the case of Rohypnol a woman would become semi-conscious for about 10 to 12 hours.

Once the effects have worn off the victim may have blackouts and flashbacks for several hours or days before they can remember what happened. Unfortunately, the drug stays in the blood stream for no more than 48 hours and in the urine for 72, making it extremely hard to detect unless tests are carried out shortly after the assault. Rohypnol was made a

class C drug last year and is now only legally available on prescription, although it can be bought on the black market.

The anaesthetic drug GHB - nicknamed GBH (grievous bodily harm) - which has also been used in rapes, stays in the body for only eight hours. Benzodiazepines - minor tranquilisers - such as Temazepam have also been used in "date rapes" in the United States.

Detective Superintendent Chris Brightman, one of the two officers involved in the research, said they would be questioning sex offenders, including paedophiles, in prisons to discover whether the drugs were used. He would also like rape victims who believe they were drugged to contact the team.

Inspector Peter Sturman added: "Over the last two years there has been growing public concern about the possible use of drugs in order to commit rape and other sexual offences. We share these concerns and this new study aims to establish more fully the nature and scale of any drug misuse of this kind."

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University opens Far East branch

ONE OF Britain's leading universities is to become the first to open a campus in the Far East.

Academics hope the University of Nottingham in Kuala Lumpur next year. They expect the university to attract 2,500 students within five years.

Senior figures from Nottingham were in the Malaysian capital last week for a formal ceremony inviting them to submit plans for the new university, to be established in the city's former National Art Gallery. The £18m venture will specialise in management and business, electrical and electronic engineering and computer science - all subjects popular with overseas students studying in Britain.

It is promising "a high-quality campus environment in keeping with the ethos and tradition of the University of Nottingham as a leading international university".

BY BEN RUSSELL
Education Correspondent

Academic staff will be recruited in the Far East, but the university hopes to attract a number of lecturers from the East Midlands. Students will have computer links to the campus in England and British undergraduates will be able to spend part of their course studying in Kuala Lumpur.

The venture is part of a growing trend towards selling British education overseas. A string of universities already runs courses abroad under franchise.

Nottingham alumni include Malaysia's supreme head of state, Ja'afar bin Abdul Rahman, and its minister of education, Najih Tun Razak. A former supreme head of state and former defence and science ministers are also graduates.

English schools have also seen the potential of the Far

East. Harrow School opened a branch in Bangkok last year. Dulwich College, south London, which counts P G Wodehouse and Raymond Chandler among its old boys, has gone as far as to build a replica of its buildings on the Thai island of Phuket.

Figures from the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (Ucas) published last week showed a 50 per cent fall in applications from Malaysian students, a consequence of the Asian economic turmoil of the past year.

But Keith Jones, the registrar of the University of Nottingham, said there was demand for the new institution as part of efforts to build Malaysian higher education and establish the nation as a regional centre of excellence.

Fees at the new university will vary between subjects, but are expected to be roughly half those charged to foreign stu-

dents studying in Britain. Mr Jones said: "It will be the first time a British university has operated in this way."

"It will be a campus in Malaysia but it will be an integral part of Nottingham."

John Nance, an expert on international education at the British Council, said: "This is the partnership of the future. These countries will probably send fewer students here in the future. They will be looking more and more for education at home. In south-east and eastern Asia, academic excellence is a god. It's essential for students to get a first degree at least and probably a second or a PhD."

"Britain has very, very long-standing relationships with this part of the world and our universities have a record of recruiting students, but we can't look to our laurels because the United States and Australia are very active."

IN BRIEF

Family dies in fumes accident

TWO ADULTS and two boys have been found dead from suspected carbon monoxide poisoning at their home in Brimington, near Chesterfield, Derbyshire. A neighbour alerted police yesterday, who said that the deaths were not being treated as suspicious.

Cancer claim settled for £65,000

A WOMAN diagnosed with cervical cancer after a GP allegedly failed to advise her to have a smear test accepted £65,000 yesterday in settlement of her High Court damages claim. Helen Barthorpe, 39, of Bath, was diagnosed as suffering from an advanced stage of the cancer in 1994.

Crash victim awarded £1.4m

JUNE WARD, 57, of Crawley, West Sussex, who was left in a persistent vegetative state after a crash with another driver in 1992, was awarded £1.4m agreed damages in the High Court. The figure was awarded by consent against Elizabeth Hutchins, of Littlehampton, West Sussex.

'Pay farmers to help wildlife'

FARMERS SHOULD be paid £300 per hectare to create and look after habitats that encourage the return of wild birds, animals and insects to the countryside, the Wildlife Trusts say today in a plan that would switch £1.6bn in agricultural subsidies to an environmental fund.



An 11-day hearing from testimony by 13 dozen defense attorneys in the courtroom. It was told Mr. Jones to get stopped by a complaint in 1988 for which died John Campbell, the jury that he in many occasions, violent, emotion protest had a plant charge in his cell. He said he was forced to leave his car at home and to take to work because of the times he was in the car, produce his own sleeping pills statistics.

A doctor told that Mrs. Jeannine had been in stress as a result of the and eventually needed a sleeping pill.

After the case was heard, Tim says that he and to be in the prison. I said that the words out the way, and in the courtroom, he was was completely aware.

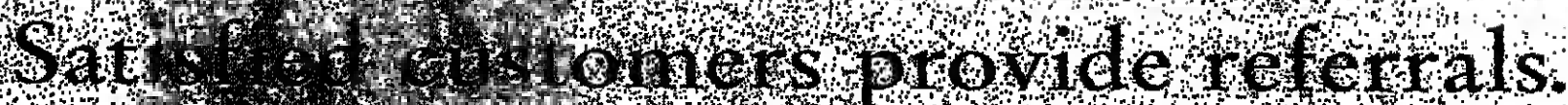
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Woman in furnace accident
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BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS



Old jokes reincarnated as painfully embarrassing moments

PETER AINSWORTH, the shadow Culture Secretary, had been struck by a happy thought as he scanned the front page of *The Guardian* yesterday. Perhaps he shared it with his wife over the breakfast cereals, perhaps she then explained Daddy's joke to the children.

Perhaps, though, he kept his counsel and carried the notion with him into the House like a pocket hand-warmer, a concealed flame that he hugged against the chill of this most thankless task - appearing to give a damn about the Government's plans for regional theatres. And then finally, during questions about the Millennium Dome, he spotted an opportunity to

take his light out of its bushel. He had been most interested to read of plans to freeze the Thames at Greenwich, he told the House with an anticipatory grin, but wouldn't the minister agree with him that this was taking the idea of 'Cool Britannia' a little too far?

Members uttered politely or issued the mildly approbatory groan the House reserves for over-polished lines.

His colleague, Richard Spring, was packing heat too - arriving in the chamber with a concealed joke that he suddenly whipped out when questioning Chris Smith about something called Quest, yet another of those purposeful sounding

acronyms for which the Government has such a weakness. Fortunately for Mr Smith, the joke in question was a harmless replica - it looked like a deadly jibe but it could only fire blanks. "What has happened to the 'arm's length principle'?" Mr Spring demanded severely. "His understanding of which is on a par with the Venus de Milo." Mr Smith waved away the blue smoke with a practised air of contempt.

His frontbench colleague, Tony Banks, was luckier, in that he got his prepared gag out pretty soon after curtain up, when the audience was in a more receptive mood.

Mr Banks would have known there was bound to be a question

THE SKETCH



THOMAS SUTCLIFFE

about the England football coach's rather punitive notions about disability (one can only assume that Glenn Hoddle disapproves of wheel-

chair ramps and Braille notices as a blasphemous mitigation of divine justice). And so, like Mr Ainsworth, he had come prepared.

After Ivor Caplin had added an indignant coda to an innocuous question about the National Stadium, he rose to confess his exasperation at recent events in his manor, events that had led him to reflect on his own past-life misdeeds: "I can only conclude that I was Vlad the Impaler," he said, "and I felt all of my impaling instincts come back as I surveyed the sporting world this week."

Mr Banks, who was actually a music hall comedian in his previous life and has carried through the

sense of timing into his current existence, got a genuine laugh for the way in which he had side-stepped the steeper of the question.

All this talk of reincarnation naturally led to more general speculation about the karmic prospects - what, for instance, will the Conservative Party return as once it has finally passed on? It can't be long now because the death rattles are getting ever more strident.

Yesterday's question session was a good case in point - a messy exercise in hand-to-hand in which the will to wound was present but the means to do it completely absent. Again and again Tory backbenchers rose, misfired loudly and

then had to listen as the Labour front bench took the opportunity to reiterate its triumphs.

Michael Fabricant, who in a previous life was a Fekinese with an erotic fixation for society ladies' legs, was typical of the ill-prepared attacks - roundly denouncing Labour for breaking an election promise on museum charges and then being obliged to sit and look bashful as Alan Howarth detailed exactly how Labour was going about keeping it. To make Mr Howarth look impressive is something of an achievement, it is true, but not one that is likely to earn Mr Fabricant many Brownie points on his particular astral plane.

Labour MPs warn of revolt on peers

THE GOVERNMENT could face a backbench revolt if it accepts a deal to keep nearly 100 hereditary peers beyond the first stage of its House of Lords reform, Labour MPs warned yesterday.

Tony Benn, the MP for Chesterfield, said the proposed compromise would breach the party's manifesto commitment to scrap hereditary voting rights. Speaking during the second reading of the House of Lords Bill, he said: "I support this Bill because it abolishes feudalism. But you have made a big mistake if you come back and ask us to reverse our manifesto commitment by endorsing the principle of hereditary peers."

"Don't ask us to endorse the principle of hereditary peers, elected by other hereditary peers, and the principle of appointed peers because both of them are an absolute denial of the democratic principle that this House is based on and the upper chamber should be based on."

Lamenting prime ministers' unduly large power of patronage, Mr Benn, who, as Viscount Stansgate gave up his peerage in the Sixties to sit in the Commons, said he would like to introduce a Modernisation of the Premiership Bill, which would

LORDS REFORM

BY SARAH SCHAEFER
Political Reporter

force all prime ministerial appointments to be approved by the elected Commons.

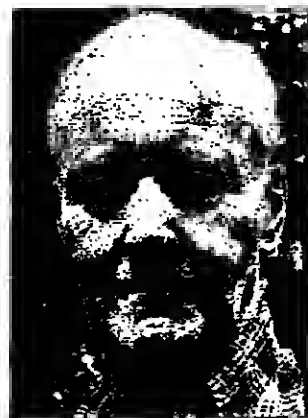
However, Margaret Beckett, the Leader in the Commons, made clear the Government would be prepared to accept the deal if other key legislation was not being obstructed by peers.

If not, she warned, ministers were prepared to use the Parliament Act under which the Bill in its present form would become law after a year's delay.

The amendment to retain 91 hereditaries will be introduced in the Lords by Lord Weatherill, the chairman of the crossbenchers.

Opening the two-day debate yesterday, Mrs Beckett said: "Should this Bill be obstructed in the Lords, despite being a clear manifesto pledge, or should it appear that the consensus and good faith for which we hope is lacking, then it is to this simple Bill that we should wish to apply the Parliament Act."

She sought to counter backbench concern, pledging that even with such an amendment the automatic rights of hereditary peers would have been re-



Tony Benn: Call to end the power of patronage

moved because those elected by their peers would be there in a personal capacity and their heirs would not inherit their seats.

But Nicholas Hawkins, the Tory MP for Surrey Heath, claimed that this amounted to putting a "pistol to the heads" of the Lords, adding: "If that is the case, the word that would be applied to that in the courts would be 'blackmail'."

Mrs Beckett branded the right of the 750 hereditaries to sit in the second chamber by virtue of birth alone "utterly, totally and literally indefensible". Some hereditaries had "bene-

fited from dubious favours, sometimes sexual, sometimes financial, performed for past monarchs", she said.

Pointing to the in-built three-to-one Tory majority in the Lords, Mrs Beckett said the Government had been defeated almost three times more often by peers than had happened on average during the previous Tory government.

Andrew Robathan, the Tory MP for Blaby, was cheered by his own benches when he accused Mrs Beckett of "revelling in class warfare".

Dr Liam Fox, the party's constitutional spokesman, urged ministers to extend the legislative power of the second chamber by increasing peers' ability to scrutinise secondary legislation such as European directives.

Challenging the Government over its "hidden agenda" behind the reform, Dr Fox added Tony Blair's real aim was to weaken the Lords' power as a second chamber "that he and his cronies could control".

An independent commission, chaired by the Tory peer Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the former lord chancellor, will report on alternative proposals for a future second chamber at the beginning of March.



Margaret Hodge admiring the two photographs she selected for her office at the Department for Education and Employment, by the photographer Monica Rene (right) John Voos

Cook tells Serbs that RAF is ready to bomb next week

£4m for pension payout glitch

BRITISH WARPLANES are ready to launch air strikes against Yugoslavia early next week if Serbia fails to turn up to peace talks to resolve the Kosovo crisis, the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, warned yesterday.

In an emergency statement to the House of Commons, Mr Cook said that RAF Harrier jets based in Italy were poised to lead military action if the Serbs failed to comply with Nato demands.

However, he stressed that if the ethnic Albanian Kosovo Liberation Army also refused to turn up to the talks in Paris this Saturday, there was no question of any bombing of Serb targets as Britain would not act as the KLA's air force.

The Foreign Secretary told MPs that he had just returned from the Balkans, where he made clear to President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia and ethnic Albanian leaders the international community's determination to end the conflict.

Under a plan drawn up by the six-nation Contact Group of Nato allies, both sides have

FOREIGN AFFAIRS
BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

until Saturday to begin negotiating a three-year interim settlement to give Kosovo more autonomy. They will have a week in which to come to agreement.

The talks were the best opportunity to date for both the warring parties in Kosovo to achieve a political settlement and end the "humanitarian catastrophe" of recent atrocities in the province, Mr Cook said. "I urge both of them now to seize that opportunity and give the people of Kosovo hope for their future in place of fear of the present bloodshed," he said.

An RAF contingent of eight Harrier jets based in Gjinia del Colle in southern Italy could bomb Serb air bases within 48 hours of an order from the Nato Secretary-General, Javier Solana, Mr Cook said. If, however, the Serbs and ethnic Albanians agreed to a peace deal, ground troops were ready to go into Kosovo to enforce a negotiated settlement. Both Britain

and France were committed to offering ground troops for enforcement, but Mr Cook hinted that the United States was now also preparing to take part in such a peace-keeping force.

Mr Cook also told the Commons that the Serbian security forces had "prime responsibility" for the atrocity in Racak, when 45 civilians, including old men and a child, were murdered in cold blood.

Michael Howard, the shadow Foreign Secretary said that it had been almost eight months since the Foreign Secretary first issued threats to President Milosevic. "Threats have been issued and not carried out," he said. Mr Howard accused the Government of "dithering" over Kosovo, but the Mr Cook dismissed the allegation as party politicking.

"You refer to a period of eight months - may I remind you that it was in 1990 that President Milosevic suspended the autonomy of Kosovo?" he said. "Today's storm has been gathering since then and for seven of those years your party was in power."

SOCIAL SECURITY
BY PAUL WAUGH

NEARLY 400,000 benefit claimants and pensioners will be paid compensation of at least £10 each for chaos caused by the breakdown of a Contributions Agency computer, the Government announced.

The package was unveiled in the Lords after Tories and Liberal Democrats insisted the poor had been hit hardest. The Social Security minister, Baroness Hollis of Helham, announced the policy during debate on the Social Security Contributions (Transfer of Functions) Bill.

Pensioners, widows and incapacity benefit claimants were underpaid when a computer system designed to calculate national insurance contributions crashed last summer.

The Contributions Agency had outraged pensioners' groups when it said it would compensate only those people owed £100 or more after the breakdown of the National Insurance Recording System.

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Wembley sold

WEMBLEY'S replacement, the English National Stadium, has come a step nearer with Wembley plc and the English National Stadium Development Company having exchanged contracts for the sale of Wembley Stadium, the Sports minister, Tony Banks, said.

Plastic bullets

PLASTIC BULLETS will still be used to quell riots in Northern Ireland because no alternatives were effective enough "in Northern Ireland conditions", the Northern Ireland minister Adam Ingram said.

MPs' expenses

MPs CAN claim travel and subsistence expenses for one trip to European institutions or the national parliament of any EU state

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

this year, the Privy Council Office minister, Paddy Tipping, announced.

Today's agenda

- Commons 2.30pm
- Health questions
- House of Lords Bill, second reading, last day
- Short debate on Libraries Lords 2.30pm
- Trustee Delegation Bill, committee
- Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Bill, committee
- Road Traffic (NHS Charges) Bill, second reading
- Debate on planning procedures on proposals for new airports

Millennium bug

RAIL, AIR and ferry companies claim they are unable to find anyone to insure them for 1 January 2000, Anne McIntosh, the Tory MP for Vale of York, warned during question time.

'Frozen' Thames

JANET ANDERSON, the Tourism minister, dismissed as pure speculation a story that the Thames could be frozen over from New Year's Eve to transport the Queen to the Millennium Dome. She was responding at question time to shadow Culture Secretary Peter Ainsworth who had asked: "Isn't this taking the idea of Cool Britannia a little too far?"

'Times' inquiry

THE INQUIRY by the Director-General of Fair Trading, John Bridgeman,

THE HOUSE



into alleged predatory pricing by *The Times* should be finished by the end of this month, the Trade and Industry minister Lord Simon of Highbury said during question time.

Jubilee Line

TUBE MANAGERS are drawing up contingency plans in case the Jubilee Line extension is not finished in time to carry visitors to and from the Millennium Dome, the Transport minister Glenda Jackson disclosed in a written reply.

'I cannot get a fair trial' says Noye

BRITAIN'S MOST wanted man, Kenneth Noye, who has been linked with the M25 road-rage killing, told Spain's national court he opposed being extradited because the British media would make it impossible for him to receive a fair trial.

"I think I've already had my trial in England because of the media," Mr Noye, 51, yesterday told magistrates considering a warrant submitted in September by Kent police. The hearing was in Madrid's high-

BY ELIZABETH NASH
in Madrid

security court, usually used for ETA terrorism trials. The judges are expected to rule in a week.

Mr Noye, asked why he opposed the extradition request, glanced at the dozens of British journalists behind an armoured glass screen and said: "It's impossible for me to get a fair trial because of the media and the unfair and unreasonable way I was identified in a restaurant."

All I ask is for the trial to be fair and reasonable."

Asked by his lawyer, Manuel Murillo, if he had anything to do with the stabbing of Stephen Cameron on an M25 slip-road in May 1996, Mr Noye said "No". Spanish police arrested him in August last year in a restaurant in the town of Barbate, near Cadiz.

The chief prosecutor at yesterday's hearing, Eduardo Fungairino, said the court's purpose was only to decide

whether Mr Noye should be extradited. "Britain's extradition request was presented scrupulously through all the requisite diplomatic channels and meets all the necessary requirements... It is not for the Spanish court to dispute the facts in the case."

Mr Fungairino conceded that the method whereby Mr Noye was identified before his arrest - by photo-fit rather than by identity parade - "did not exactly accord with Spanish law", but this formed "no impediment" to granting extradition.

"It is enough for us that a Kent JP has presented an international warrant... Britain presented an absolutely convincing account of the events concerning the stabbing and came to the conclusion that it could have been done by no other person than Kenneth Noye."

Mr Murillo asked for extradition to be denied, saying the photo-fit identification - "the only piece of evidence against

him" - was "worthless" in Spanish law. The Spanish constitution demanded "the principle of reciprocity" when granting extradition. "This means Britain must provide evidence of the substantive case on which he is charged, and we have to examine the evidence to see if it is sufficient. We reject the application on the grounds of insufficient evidence and ask for more information."

The presiding judge denied Mr Noye's request to question

a British police officer present at the hearing, but invited him to make a statement.

"What were they [the police] doing?" Mr Noye asked. "They issued no arrest warrant for two years and three months, then arrested me on an illegal identification. All I'm asking is for the judges to be fair and reasonable. If one of them was an English person sitting in a restaurant and police were looking for a dark-haired, much younger man..." At this point

the judge cut him off, saying this was in his defence statement. "There's nothing more then. Thank you very much," said Mr Noye and sat down.

After the hearing Detective Inspector Dennis McGookin said: "We are pleased with the way the proceedings have gone and we await the judgment of the court." Mr Noye will be allowed to appeal within three days of the ruling and the court would decide on the appeal about a month later.

Sex-crazed ruddy ducks to be shot

A LONG-AWAITED death sentence was passed yesterday on the ruddy duck, a waterfowl introduced to Britain 50 years ago whose sex drive is now threatening a much rarer species.

Ruddy ducks are to be shot across the country in a trial to see if they can be wiped out completely, and so save their relative, the endangered white-headed duck of Spain, from being hybridised to extinction.

The decision, announced yesterday by the Environment minister, Michael Meacher, was twice put off by the previous government and will set conservationists head-to-head against animal welfare campaigners.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds strongly backed the move but the pressure group Animal Aid said it was "kow-towing to the lunatic fringe of birdwatchers" and accused the Government of "species racism".

Mr Meacher has accepted the advice of a special taskforce he set up on the problem, from the main wildlife agencies and bird organisations, which says that the biggest threat to the white-headed duck's survival is interbreeding with ruddy ducks originating in Britain.

The white-headed duck is

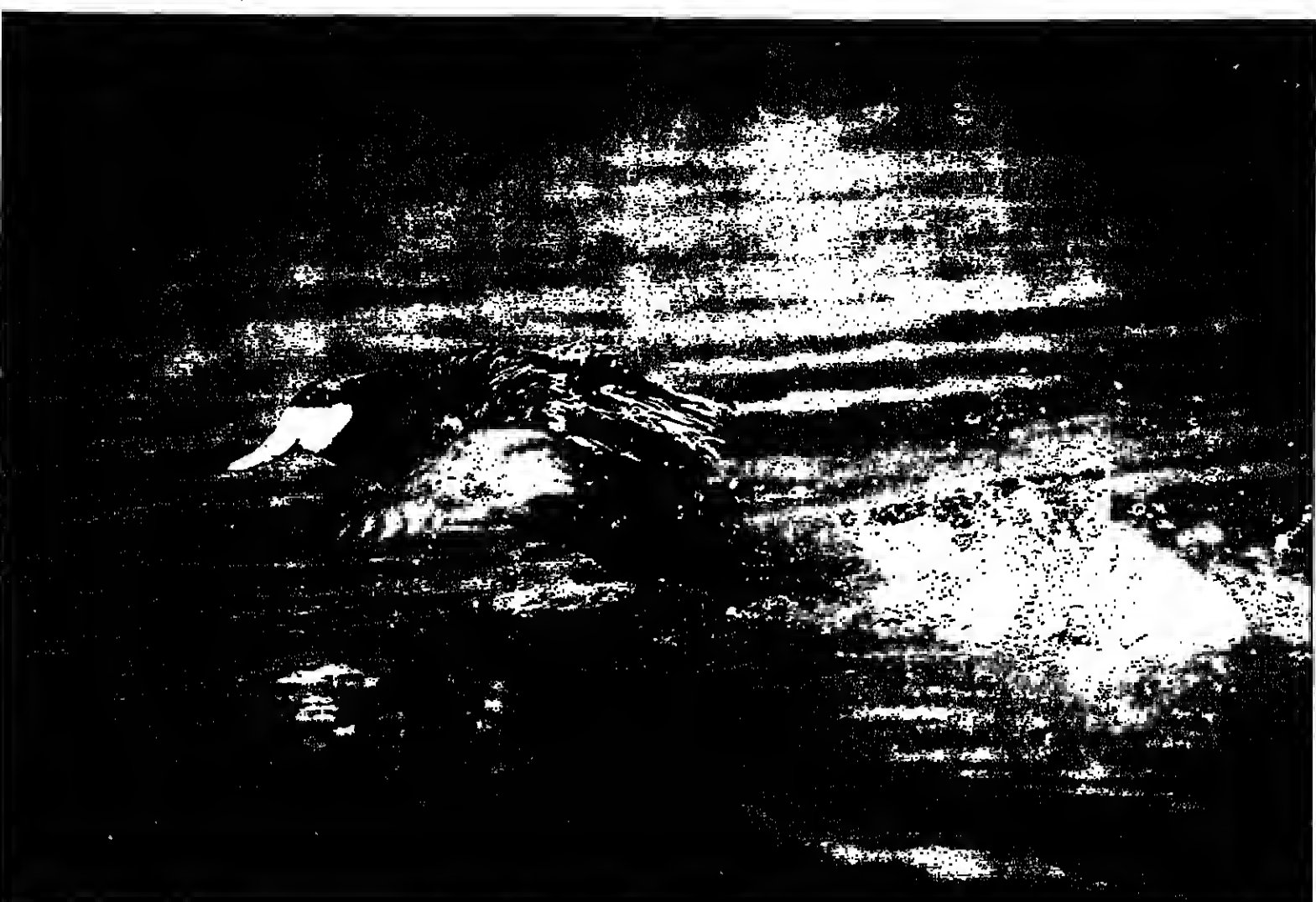
BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY
Environment Correspondent

one of Europe's rarest birds and is globally endangered, with its world population thought to number no more than 16,000. In Europe, Spain is now its last stronghold. In the 1970s its numbers there were down to 22, but determined conservation work has brought the numbers up to about 1,000.

However, conservationists say the ruddy duck, a closely related bird of North American origin, is rendering this effort worthless because male birds from Britain now fly to Spain, aggressively mate with female white-headed ducks and produce fertile hybrids. They fear the small white-headed population will be bred out of existence. They also fear that other populations, in Turkey and parts of Asia, are also at risk because ruddy ducks have now arrived in these areas.

Trial shooting of some of Britain's estimated 4,000 ruddy ducks will start in the spring at breeding sites in the West Midlands, Anglesey and Fife, the Government said yesterday. It will continue for three years so the possibility of wiping out the birds can be assessed.

"This has been a very difficult decision, but has been



A ruddy duck, which is to be culled in a move labelled 'species racism' by animal welfare campaigners

Bill Coster/NHPA

Tutors quizzed on love interest

BY IAN SHOESMITH

STAFF AT a university may be asked to declare any romantic interests with students or colleagues in a new "love book".

Managers at Bradford University said the idea was intended to eliminate allegations of favouritism from students having affairs with their tutors. And staff turned down for promotion would be able to see what intimate relationships were going on between bosses and workers.

The proposed policy of declaring "any relationship where there might be potential conflicts of interest" is contained in a consultation document to be put to staff and students.

But the Association of University Teachers, a lecturers' trade union, said it invaded members' privacy. The branch president, Adrian Pearce, said: "We already have a code covering staff-student relationships and a code against harassment. We do not think it is necessary or practical to start trying to define which relationships... need to be declared."

A spokesman for the university said: "We have prepared draft guidelines building on the current guidelines, which cover staff-student relationships." He added that the teachers' association had pressed for a formal code in 1993.

£4m for pension payout glitch

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Police club Kenya's green protesters

STUDENTS AT two Kenyan universities clashed with riot police yesterday as violence spread in a protest against the exploitation of one of Kenya's last surviving virgin forests.

Police used tear-gas and clubs against the students, who since Friday evening had been burning vehicles in the capital, Nairobi, as part of their anti-government protest. The deputy vice-chancellor of Nairobi University, Crispus Kiamba, announced that the college had been closed indefinitely.

New anti-riot armoured vehicles imported from South Africa were deployed for the first time yesterday, with tear-gas and rubber bullets.

Witnesses said that more than 1,000 students clashed with hundreds of riot police after the protesters blocked the Thika road, a main transport artery leading to the city centre. News reports said the Japanese and Ugandan ambassadors to Kenya had been assaulted by students who stopped their vehicles on the road.

The protests began over government land deals in the pro-

By LUCY HANNAN
in Nairobi

tected Karura forest on Nairobi's northern fringe, which the students say have involved a great deal of corruption. Over the past few months the deals have been condemned at both the local and international level.

Last month, the internationally known environmentalist, Wangari Maathai, was reportedly beaten up by the police when she attempted to lead a protest and plant some saplings at Karura.

After commandeering tractors to storm the gates of the forest, the students shifted the focus of their protest to the streets of the capital and have now issued various demands, including the cancellation of the Karura deals and the release of arrested students.

The protesters are angry about the allocating of plots in the forest, which is government owned, for the construction of an upmarket housing estate.

Environmentalists say the

forest is a vital green lung for Nairobi, a highly congested city with a population of more than three million. Suspicion is widespread that politicians and other members of the government have profited from the sale of forest plots.

At a news conference yesterday, the leader of the opposition Democratic Party, Mwai Kibaki, condemned the police violence and called on President Daniel arap Moi to resign. "It is particularly alarming and disgusting that the Moi regime has again resorted to the use of... repression and declared war against its own citizens to protect a few corrupt cronies," Mr Kibaki said.

State radio later carried a brief statement from Mr Moi, saying the protests had been sparked by "hatred and tribalism". He had yet to issue an official comment on the protests yesterday.

On Sunday, the Anglican Archbishop of Nairobi, the Most Rev David Gitari, said he would lead bishops in their clerical robes to Karura forest to join the demonstrations.



Riot police confronting students in Nairobi yesterday as violence grew during protests at property deals in protected forest

Corinne Dufrenoy

Lord of the rings.

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Dutch spurn Kurd's hope of sanctuary

LIKE A hijacker seeking a safe port, the Kurdish guerrilla leader Abdullah Ocalan was criss-crossing the airspace over Europe yesterday in an epic search for a place that he could at last call home.

Forced out of Syria, Russia and Italy in quick succession, Mr Ocalan had flown to Rotterdam in a private jet late on Sunday night, only to be denied landing rights by the Dutch authorities. The leader of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) then flew on, destination unknown.

The Turkish government, which wants to put Mr Ocalan on trial for his role in the death of 23,000 people during the Kurdish struggle for independence, said last night the aircraft was sitting on the apron of Athens airport, awaiting permission to enter from the Greek government. The Greeks denied the Turkish report, and said they did not want the Kurdish leader on their soil. No government was prepared to venture a guess as to where Mr Ocalan had begun his flight in the first place.

He was supposed to have left Italy on 16 January after failing to secure political asylum. He was then rumoured to have returned to Russia, or settled in another eastern European country or somewhere in the Middle East, or even South Africa.

All that could be said for certain was that late on Sunday night, Mr Ocalan was again on the move. Tipped off about his imminent arrival, about 200 Kurds had turned up at Rotterdam airport to cheer him. The Dutch authorities, however, found the landing documents wanting, and told him to go away.

By IMRE KARACS
in Bonn

According to Mr Ocalan's lawyer, the Kurdish leader had gone to the Netherlands to put Kurdistan's case personally to the international court in The Hague. But he was promptly declared *persona non grata* by the Dutch justice ministry.

There are not many countries that would want Mr Ocalan. Syria - haven and military base for the PKK for many years - showed him the door last autumn in the face of mounting Turkish pressure. He washed up in Russia, but was sent on his way again. On 12 November, he was arrested at Rome airport after a Russian tip-off.

That might have been the end of the road, except that even the countries that had put him on their most-wanted lists turned out not to want him after all.

Fearing riots among its large Kurdish and Turkish populations, Germany hurriedly withdrew its long-standing extradition order. Italy also decided it had no quarrel with the Kurds. That left only Turkey seeking Mr Ocalan, and Italy refused to hand him over to near-certain execution.

Because of Italy's controversial decision, Mr Ocalan is a free man, but homeless, and set to spark off another round of Greek-Turkish hostilities.

"We know he is at Athens airport," Korkmaz Hakmatli, under-secretary at the Turkish Foreign Ministry, was quoted as saying. "We insist he is not here," retorted a spokesman for the Greek government. Take your pick.

Iran rock'n'rolls for Khomeini

THE STREETS are decked out in lights and posters, the night sky aglow with a laser show and fireworks that reflect off the snow on the Alborz mountains dominating downtown Tehran.

Plans are under way for a massive rock concert, amid one of the biggest street parties Iran has seen.

Yesterday, Iran started a 10-day celebration marking the 20th anniversary of the Islamic revolution that, officially, liberated the people from the Shah's regime.

But for many the festivities themselves mark another liberation of sorts, from the two decades of Islamic rule the country has lived through since the bearded figure of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini stepped on to the asphalt of Tehran's Mehrabad airport on 1 February 1979.

Like everything in today's Iran, the celebrations illustrate the tension between hardliners true to the legacy of Ayatollah Khomeini and reformers aligned with President Mohammad Khatami. Mr Khatami recently pleaded with his

BY BORZU ARANI
in Tehran

powerful, hardline opponents, who still exert great influence, to allow the country's massive young population more freedom to enjoy themselves, saying they need to be able to do more than just pray in the mosques. The pop concert, if it goes ahead, will be the first since the time of the Shah.

Rock music was banned by the revolutionaries for its corrupting Western influence. Now, though, no self-respecting middle-class household in Tehran is without Oasis tapes.

The anniversary also sees art exhibitions and festivals celebrating both the increasingly acclaimed home-grown film scene and, unprecedentedly, Western cinema.

State television has been showing recent Hollywood movies and Robert De Niro has been invited to attend a celebration of his films in Tehran, two developments that would make the gentleman who started it all 20 years ago turn in his grave.

هنگامی از انجمن

Senate lawyers question Lewinsky

WITH THE future of the US President hers to decide, Monica Lewinsky was questioned for much of yesterday by lawyers trying to establish the truth of the charges against him. It was the 23rd time the former White House trainee had been questioned under oath about their relationship and probably the most crucial.

Ms Lewinsky and her questioners were holed up behind several sets of closed doors at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, the hotel where Ms Lewinsky has been staying since she returned from California on Saturday.

It was decided not to summon her to the Capitol, for her own convenience and to avoid causing gridlock in Washington.

Outside the Mayflower yesterday, there were broad smiles from passers-by at the flock of reporters now banished from the lobby to the opposite side of the road, and some street theatre that included an almost naked cowboy.

Sporting only black underpants and snakeskin boots, despite the near zero temperature, he sang, appropriately enough: "If it's trouble you want, then I've got it."

The lawyers had arrived shortly before 9am. For the White House, Mr Clinton's private lawyer, David Kendall, and the two female lawyers in the White House team, Nicole Seligman and Cheryl Mills. Plato Cacheris, Ms Lewinsky's lawyer, had arrived shortly before, also accompanied by a female lawyer.

The first four hours of questioning were led by Ed Bryant, one of the 13 Republican "prosecutors" from the House of Representatives who are trying to make the case for Mr Clinton's conviction. Mr Bryant, the Representative from Tennessee, was one of three prosecutors who held a preliminary meeting with Ms Lewinsky the week before and the one, reports said, who communicated with her most easily.

Questions were expected to focus on Mr Clinton's role, if any, in the removal of gifts from Ms Lewinsky's flat and the affidavit she signed denying a sexual relationship with the President.

Advance speculation about a "Perry Mason" style denouement was dampened by one of the House prosecutors, Bill McCollum, who told a television interviewer: "I don't want anybody to think there's some bombshell out there."

Letting his insistence on calling Ms Lewinsky be thought prudent, Republicans have also stressed that their questions would be about lies and not sex.

The afternoon session was allocated to the White House defence lawyers. Two senators presided, one Republican and one Democrat, and the proceedings were videotaped, although the Senate has still to decide whether the tape will ever be made public.

While yesterday's question-and-answer session at the Mayflower was the first opportunity Mr Clinton's lawyers have had to quiz Ms Lewinsky directly, the counter was one the White House had done its utmost to prevent. Apparently close to panic about what she might say, spokesmen, lawyers and Democrat senators had used every argument they could muster.

Yesterday, the White House



President Clinton arrives back at the White House from Camp David yesterday carrying a copy of James Patterson's 'When the Wind Blows' and a tennis ball for his dog, Buddy

President tackles huge cash surplus

PRESIDENT BILL Clinton launched his annual budget plan yesterday, ignoring the continuing drama of the impeachment trial to focus on the remaining two years of his term in office.

Spurning Republican calls for tax cuts, the President instead proposed a welter of projects that will put money into people's pockets by other means.

The budget contains a vast array of mini-projects that seem designed to underpin support for the Democrats in the 2000 elections. It must be passed by the Republican-controlled Congress before it takes effect.

The main issue in the budget is how to deal with the vast surplus that the United States believes it will accumulate over the next few years. In 2000, the year covered by the budget plan, the President predicts a surplus of \$117bn (£71bn), and for the decade as a whole, the surplus is likely to be about 2.41 trillion dollars, the White House says. For most of the past 30 years, the US government has been spending beyond its means, running up large deficits every year and hefty debt.

For most of that time, the politics of the US was the politics of the deficit, but that has now shifted abruptly to working out what to do with a growing cash mountain. The White House wants to use it to prop up the ailing pension system, which will be heavily depleted as the baby-boom generation moves towards retirement. The Republicans want to reduce taxes. This is likely to be one of the main issues they will use as they head into the 2000 Presidential elections.

The main proposal from Mr Clinton is to put nearly two-thirds of the surplus into the pension system, and more into the scheme that pays for medical care for elderly people. The President wants to put some of the surplus into the stock market, under government management, an idea that makes Wall Street, the US

central bank and others nervous. It would give the government a big stake in the stock market, and it is hard to see how the scheme could be made safe from government interference.

But the White House has also artfully constructed a spending and revenue package that has something for everyone, especially core Democrat supporters. The budget includes tax relief for childcare and for people caring for elderly relatives. It proposes more money for education, and would put in place incentives for companies to invest in poor inner-city areas. It would close a series of corporate tax loopholes to raise more cash to fund these, emphasising that the President wants to save, not spend the surplus.

The budget also protects a weak political flank by proposing a boost to defence spending of \$12bn up to 2005. Next year's spending increase is more modest, about \$12bn, of which most is either cash re-allocated from other Pentagon spending plans or projected economic savings. Only about \$5bn is new money. But the effect is to plug many of the gaps the military had identified and make it much less likely that there will be a dispute over defence spending.

A US Marine pilot went on trial at the Camp Lejeune base in North Carolina yesterday charged with the negligent killing of 20 people when his plane sliced through the cables of a ski lift in the Italian Alps last year.

Captain Richard Ashby, whose co-pilot also faces court martial, has said in his defence that the lift was not marked on his US-issued map. The prosecution case is that the plane was flouting regulations by deliberately flying too low and too fast, something Captain Ashby denies. The defendant is also claiming they are being made scapegoats because of diplomatic pressure from Italy.

Security men in Cypriot port were not spies, Israel claims

SO THE Israeli Mossad spies in Cyprus were not spies after all. They were, it transpired yesterday, merely "approaching" a military area with scanning equipment, computers, tape recorders, military maps and cellular telephones upon which they regularly dialled a number for Israeli intelligence in Tel Aviv.

Three years was what Udi Hargov and Igal Damary received from the Larnaca District Court - which, with good conduct, means they will be back in Israel in a year or two.

Officially, of course, it simply could not be proved that they were interested in the imminent arrival (since cancelled) of Cyprus' brand-new ground-to-air missiles, to which the Turks objected - Turkey being Israel's latest ally in the Middle East.

But the Cypriot President, Glafcos Clerides, and his Foreign Minister, Ioannis Kasoulidis, have since admitted

that they had been "reassured" by Israel, unnamed US senators and an equally anonymous European Union minister that the two men had not been "acting against Cyprus".

So what were they doing in the picturesque Cypriot fishing village of Zigi at the moment the Cypriot National Guard just happened to be unloading a new shipment of tanks and other military equipment last year?

According to the Israelis, they were acting against a threat of "terrorism", the all-purpose definition of anything that threatens Israel, and in no way intending to harm the security of an island which has been divided for a quarter of a century between Greek Cypriots and Israel's new ally, Turkey.

Judge George Aresti stated at Larnaca yesterday that "no explanation has been given as to why the two accused approached a prohibited area when such a delicate security operation was under way".

The Cypriot authorities had been maintaining the "utmost secrecy", he said, about the military activity taking place at the command base at Vasilikos, close to Zigi.

No mention was made in the Larnaca court - a bleak two-storey building near the international airport - about two meetings that took place during the trial between the Cypriot attorney general, Alecos Markides, and his Israeli opposite number, Elyakin Rubinstein.

The Greek Cypriot press quickly recalled the case of a Cypriot journalist sentenced to five years in prison in Israel more than two decades ago for alleged "spying", he had been taking photographs in the port of Haifa.

The Cypriot government, it seems, has agreed to forgive - and more or less forget - the potential danger to its island state by the two Mossad men almost as quickly as it decided, under European and American pressure, to abandon its plan to deploy anti-aircraft missiles. Mr Markides denied at a press conference that any "pressure" had been brought on Cyprus to drop the case against the Israelis.

Hargov and Damary could have received 10 years in prison for espionage if they had been convicted of the initial charges of spying.

The police had caught the two men after a local Greek Cypriot café proprietor became suspicious because they never greeted him after renting a neighbouring apartment.

Quite apart from mysterious American senators, a serious appreciation of Greek food, it seems, might have saved both of the men the trouble of a prison sentence.

Insults fly at trial of Britons in Aden

PRISONERS AND guards exchanged curses at the trial in Aden of five Britons and an Algerian accused of planning a bombing campaign. The defendants repeated claims of torture and beatings.

As the session began yesterday James Luovres, 30, an Algerian who was on a forged French passport, held up a bruised right arm and insulted the guards.

Two other prisoners joined in and the guards shouted insults. Badr Basumaid accused prison officials of denying him access to his clients.

The men are accused of being in touch with the gang that last year kidnapped 16 tourists, and with Abu Hamza al-Masri, a militant Islamic

cleric in London. The defendants deny all charges. The trial resumes on Saturday.

In London, Michael McCollgan, a human rights lawyer, who interviewed three of the accused last week, said: "All three said that they had been tortured. Malek Nasser Harhara said he had been beaten, blindfolded and trussed up... He was... beaten unconscious on one occasion."

Mohammed Mustapha Kamel, 18, a son of Mr Masri, and two other Britons captured in Yemen last week are to be tried later. Security sources said they were still being interrogated.

IN BRIEF

Cash for Iraqi hits on RAF planes
THE PRESIDENT of Iraq, Saddam Hussein, has given orders to pay 25 million dinars (about £9,000) to air defence troops who succeed in shooting down a hostile aircraft. Iraq's government newspaper said yesterday. US and British planes hit targets in Iraq on Sunday.

MEPs want Milosevic indicted
A EUROPEAN parliamentary delegation yesterday handed a 100,000-signature petition demanding the indictment of President Slobodan Milosevic to UN war crimes prosecutors in The Hague. The petition was signed by 120 MEPs and two former Belgian prime ministers.

'Progress' in India nuclear test ban
INDIA HAS agreed to sign a nuclear test ban treaty provided economic sanctions imposed after it held nuclear tests last year are lifted. US and Indian officials stopped short of declaring a breakthrough after eight months of nuclear negotiations, but applauded "significant progress".

Lesbian chaplain back in pulpit
A LESBIAN clergywoman barred from the pulpit for marrying her partner was allowed to resume preaching yesterday. The row over Siri Sunde, 40, a chaplain in the Hamar diocese, threatens to split Norway's state church.

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Singapore rebel on trial for speeches

CHEE SOON JUAN, 36, used to be a successful neuro-psychologist with a good job at Singapore's prestigious National University. After deciding to run for parliament on an opposition party ticket he lost his job, then his house, and now lives from hand to mouth by publishing his writings.

He stands to lose his freedom. Yesterday, Dr Chee went on trial for breaching the Public Entertainment Act. In Singapore, where a leading dissident was placed under house arrest in a theme park, entertainment covers making public speeches without a permit.

Dr Chee did this twice, insisting Singapore's constitution guarantees free speech, making the law invalid.

The maximum penalty is a fine of £1,800, but more importantly, from Dr Chee's point of view, the offence also carries a five-year ban on running for parliament. He says if he is

By STEPHEN VINES

found guilty he will go to jail rather than pay the fine.

The government accuses him of seeking political martyrdom and says Singaporeans enjoy free speech and can exercise it in parliament and in the local media.

However, Dr Chee says it is practically impossible for him to get his views aired in the state-dominated media. It is also very hard for opposition members to get elected to parliament. In the last election opposition candidates secured more than 40 per cent of the popular vote but only took three of the 83 seats.

Constituencies that have returned opposition candidates are subject to threats of withdrawal of public services and, as in the case of the constituency once represented by Dr Chee, they simply disappear under boundary changes.

Defending Dr Chee in court

is the old opposition warhorse Joshua Jeyaretnam, who has far more experience than his client of facing the government's wrath. Mr Jeyaretnam says he is virtually penniless after having been repeatedly sued for libel by government leaders. Few dare seek his services as a lawyer, leaving him with a very thin practice.

Entering opposition politics is not to be taken lightly in Singapore. Dr Chee took the first steps by writing to the leading local paper about the problems of the education system; complaining it lacked flexibility and room for initiative.

Even this form of activity soon earned a reprimand from his boss. This brush with intolerance of opposition increased when he decided to stand for parliament. A dispute over misuse of university department funds involving £70 led to his dismissal. When he tried to fight for his job he became involved in a

libel suit and had to sell his house after losing the case.

Others who have taken a high-profile role in opposition politics have faced similar problems. Not surprisingly, they are thin on the ground.

In court yesterday the police who summoned Dr Chee for addressing a public meeting constituted a threat to national security. "It can happen at any time," said the officer.

Mr Jeyaretnam, who has also been portrayed as a security threat, replied: "In the same way that Martians could invade Singapore." The authorities are unlikely to have been amused.

As for Dr Chee, he faces another trial once this one finishes. However, his unusual public challenge to the government has sparked a public debate in the columns of local newspapers. The fact that the articles are being published suggests Dr Chee has already scored a minor victory.



Chee Soon Juan making one of his 'illegal' public speeches in Singapore's business district last month. Ed Wray

Nation that will swallow anything

STREET LIFE
MOSCOW

FOR A brief moment, it was possible to imagine the worst. A large map of the country filled the television screen as a Russian newsreader read out statistics in the kind of sombre voice well suited to disasters. He was listing victim numbers city by city as you would in a war or in the aftermath of a nuclear accident. It sounded pretty awful: 100 here, 200 there.

Clearly, the nation that chased off Napoleon and Hitler - and which has yet completely to shake off a residual fear of invasion - was suffering some kind of new onslaught. Scarier still, the map showed that the threat was moving relentlessly westwards towards Moscow.

Influenza has arrived in Russia, and its steady advance across Siberia and the Ural mountains is being charted with the solemnity that you would expect to be reserved for events of greater magnitude. Newspapers publish articles describing cures; humourless television bulletins include the details and such weighty matters as the Kosovo crisis and Bill Clinton's impeachment.

But what is surprising is not that Russians regard flu as a serious health problem.

After all, the Soviet health service has been falling apart for years and is now in a terrible state, and flu can prove deadly to the weak or elderly. And imported medicines are increasingly expensive in Russia. A packet of Coldex costs more than many earn in a day, while a flu shot costs about £12 - two-thirds of the monthly wage for the 40 million people blow the poverty line.

No, what is much more mystifying is the extent to which Russians fret about flu, while appearing indifferent to most other afflictions that annually wipe hundreds of thousands off the population, now down to just over 146 million. Russians smoke in astronomical numbers, despite worsening cancer.

They drink vodka with abandon, although alcohol has played a leading part in lowering average male mortality to about 59. Taxi drivers take it as an insult to their driving skills if you so much as hint at clipping up your seatbelt, even though some 27,000 people died on the roads last year. All these issues are seen as inescapable aspects of the Russian condition, matters for which fate and not humankind is largely to blame.

Not so flu. Flu is regarded as an enemy against which almost everyone is prepared to do battle, armed with an assortment of quacks' remedies. The slightest suggestion of a sniffle will have Russians rubbing vodka into their chests, or racing to the steam baths.

A few days ago, I was chatting with Sasha Fominykh, a 40-year-old driver at a Moscow factory who is the neighbour of a friend of mine. We were talking about his recent Christmas holiday which - being unable to afford to go anywhere interesting - he spent in his tiny two-roomed apartment. Highlight of the week? His battle with the bug.

Mr Fominykh said he owed his return to health to a new cure, gleaned from an article in the popular *Moskovskii Komsomolets* newspaper. The paper had two suggestions. The first was to hang a pair of dirty socks around your neck, but he decided that he would rather remain ill than try this. The second involved rubbing the soles of his feet with the juice of a raw onion before going to bed. "It makes the feet sweat a lot, which helps get rid of the fever," he said. The next day he was better.

Another newspaper, *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, offered a different remedy. "If you are running a temperature, put 50g of onion through a meat grinder, with one tablespoon of vinegar and 60g of honey. Mix it well. Take one teaspoon of the mixture every 30 minutes until you start to feel better."

Coughers were advised to cut 20 small onions and a head of garlic into small pieces, boil them together in milk, and eat them once an hour with added honey.

You are, I suspect, raising a scornful eyebrow. But you mock at your peril.

When I asked Olga, a Russian colleague, for some other examples of anti-flu remedies, she provided an account of how Marshal Georgy Zhukov, hero of Stalingrad in the Second World War, threw off a nasty bout by galloping across the Russian landscape for several miles wearing a *barku* - a felt coat. My sniggers drew a frosty look.

PHIL REEVES



Sasha Fominykh: Owed his restored health to an onion

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BUSINESS

Banks feel heat as Paribas and Société Générale merge

City braced for fresh wave of job cutbacks



Daniel Bouton, chief executive of Société Générale (left), and André Levy-Lang, chairman of Paribas, celebrate the £10.2bn merger in Paris yesterday

BY ANDREW GARFIELD
Financial Editor

PRESSURE FOR consolidation among Europe's big banks intensified yesterday after France's Société Générale and Paribas yesterday tied the knot on a £15m euro (£10.2bn) all-share merger to create the world's fourth largest banking group.

Immediately the deal was struck the architects of the new deal held out a hand to other potential merger partners, triggering speculation that a further merger deal with either Britain's Barclays bank or Wall Street investment house Merrill Lynch could follow yesterday's move.

Daniel Bouton, the chief executive of Société Générale and vice-president of the combined bank, said yesterday: "We were looking to something that would consolidate the bank's stronghold in France but would also be open to a diversity of parties."

Yesterday's French merger comes barely a fortnight after Spain's Banco Santander and Banco Central Hispano merged to create a new 30bn euro giant on the French banks' doorstep, and only weeks after Germany's Deutsche Bank cemented a Transatlantic deal with Bankers Trust of the US.

The SocGen/Paribas deal leaves Banque Nationale de Paris, the privatised French bank that had recently made its own merger overtures to Paribas, particularly vulnerable.

There was speculation that yesterday's merger would leave BNP little choice but to either succumb to a merger approach from BBV of Spain, or go for Barclays - the British clearing bank that has yet to find a replacement for Martin Taylor, the chief executive who quit the bank in "dramatic" circumstances in December.

Dresdner, owner of Kleinwort Benson, the City investment

bank, has close ties with BNP but resisted efforts by successive French governments to persuade it to go the next step and merge with the French bank.

Significantly, yesterday's merger brings Société Générale and Paribas up to roughly level pegging with Britain's Barclays and National Westminster Bank in terms of market worth, as well as its rival BNP.

SG Paribas said it was still interested in being allowed to participate as a core shareholder in Credit Lyonnais, which is being privatised this spring. To this end Société Générale is dropping its complaint to the European Commission about the government bail-out of its rival.

Shareholders in the two

banks will be offered shares in the combined SG Paribas on the basis of five SocGen shares for eight Paribas. That represents a premium of 17 per cent over the average Paribas share price over the past three weeks.

The banks are to take a merger provision of one billion euros to cover redundancies and the costs of integrated computer systems. They anticipate merger savings of 800m euros a year by 2001.

However, both Mr Bouton and André Levy-Lang, the Paribas chairman who is to assume the chairmanship of the combined group until 2002, insisted there would be no "forced redundancies" and that any headcount reductions would be through natural wastage.

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THE WORLD'S BIGGEST BANKS

Total shareholders equity in billions

Bank America	US	39
Chase Manhattan	US	36
HSBC	UK	25
SG Paribas	Fr	21
UBS	Sw	21
Credit Agricole	Fr	20
Chase Manhattan	US	20
Credit Suisse	Sw	18
Deutsche Bank	Ger/US	17
Banco Santander Central Hispano	Sp	16
Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi	Jap	15
First Union	US	15
ASN AMRO Bank	NL	15
HypoVereinsbank	Ger	14
Barclays	UK	14
First Chicago	US	12

THE CITY was last night preparing for a further jobs shakeout following the £10bn banking merger between Société Générale and Paribas, which is the latest in a series of deals that are dramatically altering the landscape of London's financial district.

"It is going to be a very bloody affair," one City banker warned last night. "There is so much overlap."

At least 500 jobs are expected to be axed as a result of the SG Paribas deal, where the biggest overlap is in the equities and fixed-interest divisions.

Hundreds more head office jobs will also go now that AXA, the French insurer has claimed victory in the auction for British insurance group Guardian Royal Exchange with a £3.5bn deal.

Further jobs cuts are planned by Barclays, the high street bank, which is to axe hundreds of staff in a £300m restructuring of its retail businesses.

Barclays is reorganising retail, its most profitable division, with a new structure based around two distinct areas catering for mass market and so-called high net worth individuals replacing the traditional emphasis on products.

Announcing their merger to create the world's fourth largest banking group, the heads of Société Générale and Paribas sought to play down the prospect of large-scale redundancies. However, they admitted there would be some

"streamlining" overseas, in an effort to yield a targeted 800m euro of savings by 2001.

The banks believe that as a result of the merger they can cut the amount they have to set aside to finance their investment banking activities to a third of their group equity capital, while maintaining or even boosting the amount of business they are able to do.

Although there is little direct overlap in France, where Paribas, as a mainly business and wholesale bank, has no retail branch network to get in the way of SocGen's, there is considerable duplication in investment banking.

One source estimated that in London, where the two banks together employ around 4,500, the cost in terms of jobs could be as much as 500 alone. Tough bargaining will also take place in New York where SocGen recently acquired Cowen, the US investment boutique, to its stable in a \$600m deal. "There is a 30-40 per cent overlap," said John Leonard, an analyst at Salomon Smith Barney.

In London the overlap is particularly acute in equities, where both Paribas and SG have invested heavily over recent years. Paribas, which has a strong position in the Euro-bond market, has a clear edge in fixed income and asset management. But in the merger advisory business, especially in the UK, SG has a stronger position.

News Analysis, page 14

BRIEFING

Industry contracting sharply

BRITAIN'S MANUFACTURING industry contracted sharply in January, according to a new survey, suggesting that recent talk of recovery in the sector could be premature. The Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS) found that the rate of decline in manufacturing activity accelerated in January. Employment in the sector also fell. The figures boosted hopes of another cut in UK interest rates at this week's Monetary Policy Committee meeting. Further evidence of weakness in consumer expenditure also fanned rate speculation. Consumer credit halved between November and December to £700m.

£6.5m for William Hill executives

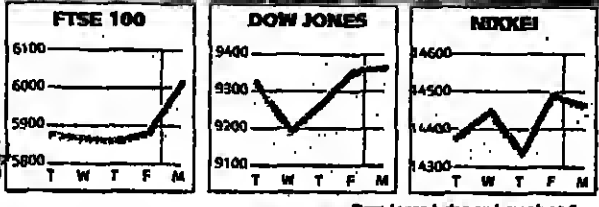
THE TWO top executives at William Hill are to share a £6.5m bonus from the March flotation of the UK's second largest bookmaker. It emerged yesterday. John Brown, the chief executive (left), and Bob Lambert, the finance director, will receive £3.2m each from the Japanese bank Nomura, the company's present owner, for bringing the bookmaker to the market.

Another 150 employees will share a windfall of £13.8m from the float, which is expected to value William Hill at up to £525m. Nomura said it would use part of its profits from the sale, set to total £170m, to pay for the bonuses.

Inchcape sells bottling business

INCHCAPE, which last March announced a programme of disposals aimed at converting the business into a specialist motor distribution company, has agreed to sell its soft-drink bottling interests in Chile and Peru to Embotelladora Arica de Chile for £457m in cash. Coca-Cola, which owns a 17 per cent stake in Arica, will underwrite the deal. The bottling businesses made operating profits of £20m last year. The price includes £37m in cash but the net proceeds are substantially greater than the market forecast of around £330m and Inchcape shares rose 15p to 149.5p.

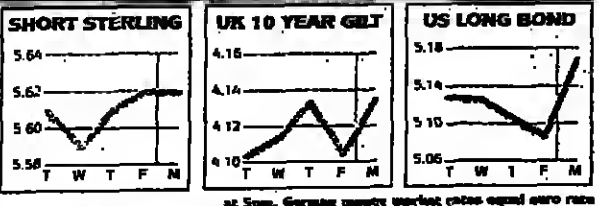
STOCK MARKETS



Source: Reuters

Index	Close	Change	Open	High	Low	Vol
FTSE 100	6012.40	+116.40	5896.00	6020.00	5880.00	2,458
FTSE 250	5121.00	+97.60	5023.40	5130.00	5010.00	1,271
FTSE 350	2842.40	+55.00	2787.40	2850.00	2770.00	2,772
FTSE All Share	2747.92	+51.98	2696.00	2755.00	2685.00	3,281
FTSE SmallCap	2154.60	+24.40	2130.20	2160.00	2120.00	3,741
FTSE Floating	1194.10	+5.90	1188.20	1195.00	1185.00	4,531
FTSE AIM	833.70	+1.20	832.50	834.00	832.00	2,119
FTSE Euro100	2839.26	+46.67	2792.59	2845.00	2780.00	2,409
FTSE Euro300	1232.51	+17.42	1215.09	1235.00	1210.00	1,246
FTSE Euro500	3444.90	+38.31	3406.59	3450.00	3390.00	2,061
Dow Jones	9377.62	+20.34	9357.28	9380.00	9340.00	1,801
Nikkei	14465.18	+34.07	14431.11	14470.00	14400.00	1,654
Hang Seng	9599.55	+26.65	9572.90	9600.00	9550.00	3,672
Dax	5190.82	+30.86	5159.96	5195.00	5150.00	1,761
S&P 500	1274.05	+5.50	1268.55	1275.00	1265.00	1,241
Nasdaq	2505.51	+2.30	2503.21	2506.00	2500.00	0,227
Toronto 300	6763.20	+38.84	6724.36	6770.00	6710.00	1,157
Brazil Bovespa	8523.33	+33.21	8490.12	8530.00	8470.00	1,241
Brazil Ibovespa	3444.90	+38.31	3406.59	3450.00	3390.00	2,061
Amerigo 40	540.01	+7.92	532.09	545.00	525.00	1,822
France CAC 40	4303.92	+52.12	4251.80	4310.00	4240.00	1,188
Milan MIB30	35164.00	+492.00	34672.00	35200.00	34500.00	1,116
Madrid IBC35	3998.20	+119.40	3878.80	4000.00	3860.00	1,186
Irish Overall	5199.92	+33.70	5166.22	5200.00	5150.00	1,461
S Korea Comp	581.67	+10.24	571.43	585.00	565.00	1,011
Australia ASX	2923.70	+29.90	2893.80	2930.00	2880.00	3,312

INTEREST RATES



MONEY MARKET RATES

Index	3 month	6 month	12 month	18 month	24 month	36 month
UK	5.81	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
US	4.97	4.66	4.66	4.66	4.66	4.66
Japan	0.48	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31
Germany	3.08	2.45	2.45	2.45	2.45	2.45

BOND YIELDS

Index	3 month	6 month	12 month	18 month	24 month	36 month
UK	5.81	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
US	4.97	4.66	4.66	4.66	4.66	4.66
Japan	0.48	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31
Germany	3.08	2.45	2.45	2.45	2.45	2.45

CURRENCIES



POUND

Index	3 month	6 month	12 month	18 month	24 month	36 month
Dollar	1.6412	-0.49c	1.6399	1.6399	1.6399	1.6399
Euro	1.4517	+0.45c	1.4079	1.4079	1.4079	1.4079
Yen	168.88	-0.21	169.09	169.09	169.09	169.09
Scandin	100.80	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

DOLLAR

Index	3 month	6 month	12 month	18 month	24 month	36 month
Yen	168.88	-0.21	169.09	169.09	169.09	169.09
Scandin	100.80	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Swiss	1.4517	+0.45c	1.4079	1.4079	1.4079	1.4079
Base Rates	6.00	7.25	7.25	7.25	7.25	7.25

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	3 month	6 month	12 month	18 month	24 month	36 month
Brent Oil (9)	11.15	0.40	15.57	15.57	15.57	15.57
Gold (\$)	287.35	1.30	287.35	287.35	287.35	287.35
Silver (\$)	5.28	0.04	6.05	6.05	6.05	6.05

TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia (\$)	2.5179	Mexican (nuevo peso)	15.19
Austria (schillings)	19.90	Netherlands (guilders)	3.0966
Belgium (francs)	56.80	New Zealand (\$)	2.9203
Canada (\$)	2.4270	Norway (kroner)	12.07
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8136	Portugal (escudos)	280.55
Denmark (kroner)	10.51	Saudi Arabia (rials)	5.9971
Finland (markka)	8.3848	Singapore (\$)	2.6605
France (francs)	9.2287	South Africa (rand)	9.5848
Germany (marks)	2.7620	Spain (pesetas)	233.80
Greece (drachma)	452.62	Sweden (kronor)	12.56
Hong Kong (\$)	12.37	Switzerland (francs)	2.2693
Ireland (pounds)	1.7058	Thailand (bahts)	54.83
India (rupees)	62.88	Turkey (liras)	525843
Israel (shekels)	6.2428	USA (\$)	1.6078
Italy (lira)	2736		
Japan (yen)	186.65		
Malaysia (ringgits)	5.9504		
Malta (lira)	0.6111		

Millennium bug 'could end Wall Street bull run'

BY JEREMY WARNER
In Davos, Switzerland

THE MILLENNIUM bug could prove to be the shock that ends Wall Street's 12-year bull market, a senior US economist warned yesterday.

Edward Yardeni, chief economist of Deutsche Bank Securities in the US, told participants at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, that a build-up of negative news on the year 2000 problem might cause stock markets to dive.

Separately, Scott McNeely, chief executive of Sun Microsystems, said that Asian companies making PCs and computer components lagged the US and Europe by several years in dealing with the bug.

Advising consumers to "buy lots of computers in the second half of this year," he warned of severe supply problems after the turn of the century.

"We believe Asia is way behind," Mr McNeely said at the WEF annual meeting. "Intel, Sun and Hewlett Packard have done quite similar surveys of their supply base in Asia and they confirm the region is significantly behind in dealing with the problem."

However, the effects of the bug were played down by Bill Gates, head of Microsoft, who said he thought the problem

had been much exaggerated by the press. There were bound to be some problems, he conceded, but he did not foresee a general systemic breakdown.

Mr Yardeni predicted a build-up of bad news on the bug from June onwards as companies began to make their SEC filings on whether they were millennium bug compliant.

"There are already 34 millennium bug lawsuits outstanding in the US and we'll see a lot more of that," he said.

Mr Yardeni said he thought the present euphoria in Internet stocks was symptomatic of "one of the greatest speculative bubbles on Wall Street of all time".

"If the stock market dives, which I think it will do in the second half of this year, then it will take the US consumer and economy with it," he warned.

"I don't know when exactly it will top, but I have no problem at all with lightening up and taking profits right now," he added.

A number of executives from the computer and Internet industries said that they thought the frenzy in Internet stocks was casting a cloud over legitimate high-growth companies.

Sky facing Man U trade-off

BY PETER TRAL LARSEN

BRITISH SKY Broadcasting is under pressure from the competition authorities to give up its exclusive grip on Premier League television rights as a condition for its £250m takeover of Manchester United being allowed to go ahead.

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission, which is preparing a report on the takeover, has written to BSkyB and Manchester United with a suggestion that the broadcaster does not buy rights to matches that it does not intend to broadcast.

The clause is one of a number which the MMC is thinking of insisting upon in return for waving through the BSkyB-Manchester United takeover.

The watchdog is due to deliver its report to Stephen Byers, the Trade and Industry Secretary, by March 12.

At the same time, industry experts believe the clause could provide the basis for a compromise in the dispute between the Office of Fair Trading and the Premier League, which is currently being heard in front of the Restrictive Practices Court.

The OFT, which accuses the Premier League of behaving as a cartel, wants to increase the amount of live football on television.

BSkyB's current contract with the Premier League allows it to broadcast 60 live matches a season. Because the arrangement is exclusive, the other 320 matches are not shown.

If the MMC insists on the condition, BSkyB would either have to expand massively its coverage of Premier League matches or agree to allow other broadcasters to televise matches. City analysts said that, with the explosion in the number of channels as a result of digital television, BSkyB could increase its coverage.

However, lawyers for BSkyB

are resisting the condition by arguing that it would make it almost impossible to put a value on the contract. At the moment, BSkyB chooses the matches it wants to show several months in advance.

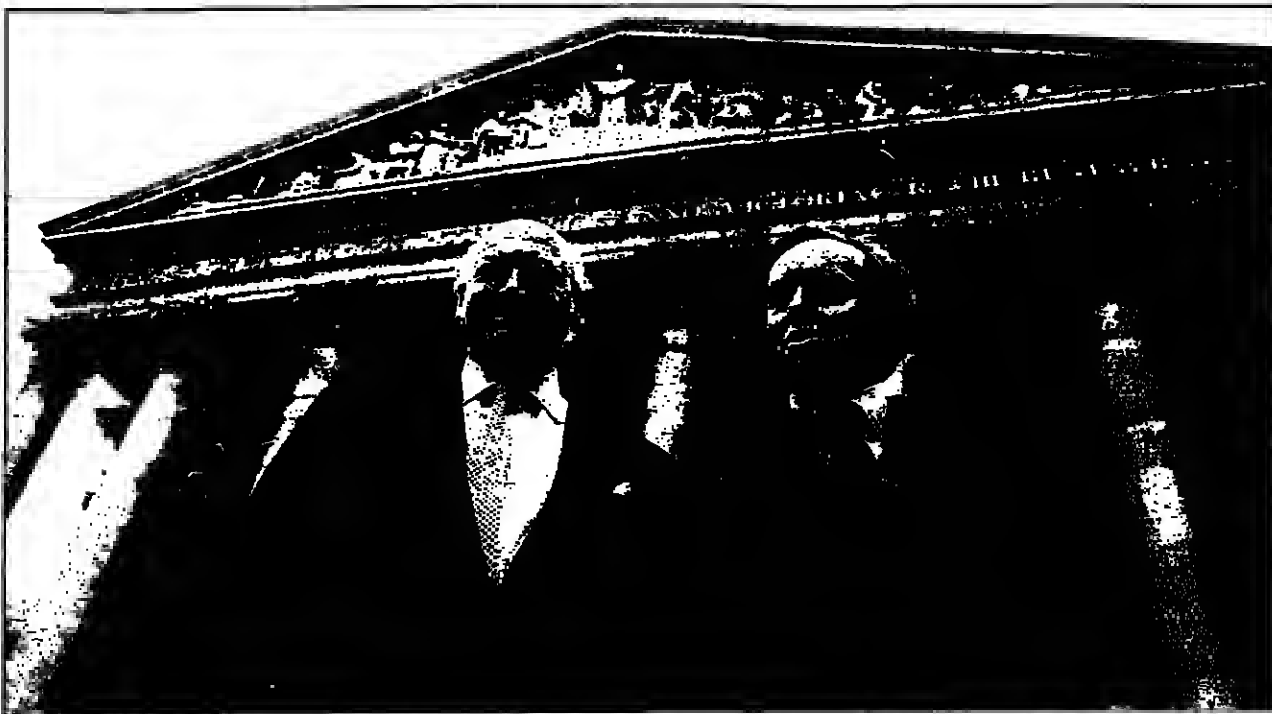
The Premier League is also resisting the move. It argues that increasing the number of games on television would cause fixture chaos. Uefa, the body that oversees European football, prevents Premier League matches from being televised at the same time as matches in other leagues are being played. As a result, television matches would have to be moved from Saturday afternoon.

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However, lawyers for BSkyB

GRE faces revolt on French deal



Lord Hambro, chairman of GRE (left) and Lord Douro, chairman of Sun Life and Provincial Holdings, in the City yesterday after the agreed deal was announced

BY ANDREW VERITY
AND ANDREW GARFIELD

A SHAREHOLDER revolt was threatened last night after AXA, the French insurance giant, claimed victory in the battle for the British insurer Guardian Royal Exchange with a £3.4bn agreed bid.

As AXA was toasting the endorsement of GRE's board for its 389p-a-share cash-and-paper offer, some shareholders questioned whether the deal represented the best offer, given that another group, Eureka, had tabled what seemed a more attractive deal.

Under the AXA offer, each GRE share will be worth 249p in cash and 0.243 new shares in Sun Life & Provincial Holdings, the London-listed company which is majority-owned by AXA.

GRE's board, already under fire for the way it has handled the three-month auction, ran into immediate criticism from shareholders, who believed better offers were available. The market too, appeared to shy away from the deal, pricing GRE's shares at 360p.

"If the board have recommended an offer from AXA when there is a higher offer on the table, then we need to know why," said one institu-

News Analysis: AXA has claimed victory in the battle for the British insurer after its £3.4bn bid was agreed. But some shareholders believe a better offer was available

tional shareholder, who declined to be named. "The fact that GRE's share price has fallen to 360p says it all."

Another said: "The situation is not yet closed. It is still open for Eureka to come back with a firm offer."

According to sources close to the deal, AXA's bid of 389p was chosen over the rival Royal and SunAlliance bid because the latter was unable to offer a full cash alternative and some shareholders were unwilling to take its paper.

Part of the reason was that shareholders had become tired of waiting for things to turn up at GRE - particularly after results like yesterday's, which showed a plunge in profits from £872m in 1997 to £292m. They wanted a cash exit.

According to the sources, Eureka, which has had trouble all along surmounting the credibility barrier, had made an indicative 385p a share cash offer but wanted to make a formal offer conditional on getting full access to the books. Directors decided instead to plump for the firm no-strings-attached offer from AXA.

GRE's board and its advisers, Morgan Stanley, feel they have done well to get this much for a company which, before the auction began last November, was judged by the market to be worth barely £3 a share.

Nevertheless, some shareholders believe they have a gripe. While the AXA/Sun Life offer valued the GRE shares at 389p when the markets opened yesterday morning, by late afternoon the Sun Life shares had come off 10 per cent.

Because of the paper ele-

ment, the value of the AXA offer was closer to 378p.

Yesterday there was still a possibility that Eureka might come back with a hard cash offer, something which would please the discontented shareholders. However, Schroders, the biggest shareholder, is in favour of the AXA deal.

"The auction has been conducted fairly," said Schroders' Jim Cox. "You have to remember that this is a business with employees and customers and there is a limit to how long the uncertainty can go on."

John Robins, GRE's chief executive, yesterday declined to answer questions on the deal, which will see him leave the group over a year ahead of his February 2001 retirement date.

Mr Robins appeared opposed to a deal as recently as last summer, arguing that GRE had a good future as an independent group focusing on protection insurances such as health insurance and critical illness.

Mark Wood, chief executive of Sun Life & Provincial, yesterday said he expected

group's ambition to beat rivals such as Allianz, Aegon and Generali as Europe's dominant insurer.

The deal will make AXA the third largest general insurer in the UK, behind CGU and Royal & SunAlliance, hoisting the amount it attracts in general insurance premiums from £500m to £1.7bn.

It will hold the number two position in private health insurance - through Guardian's ownership of PPP - and the number three position in UK life insurance. AXA, already one of the world's biggest investment managers, will also have £55bn to manage in the UK alone.

The BIFU finance union yesterday welcomed the deal, citing assurances from AXA that the job losses would be in the hundreds. Had Royal & SunAlliance won out, the union feared up to 5,000 job losses.

But for customers, yesterday's deal may not prove as welcome. Andy Homer, the future chief executive of AXA's general insurance arm, yesterday indicated that the group would soon start to raise motor insurance premiums in an effort to improve profits at the business.

If the deal is approved by shareholders, it will mark another giant leap in the French

group's ambition to beat rivals such as Allianz, Aegon and Generali as Europe's dominant insurer.

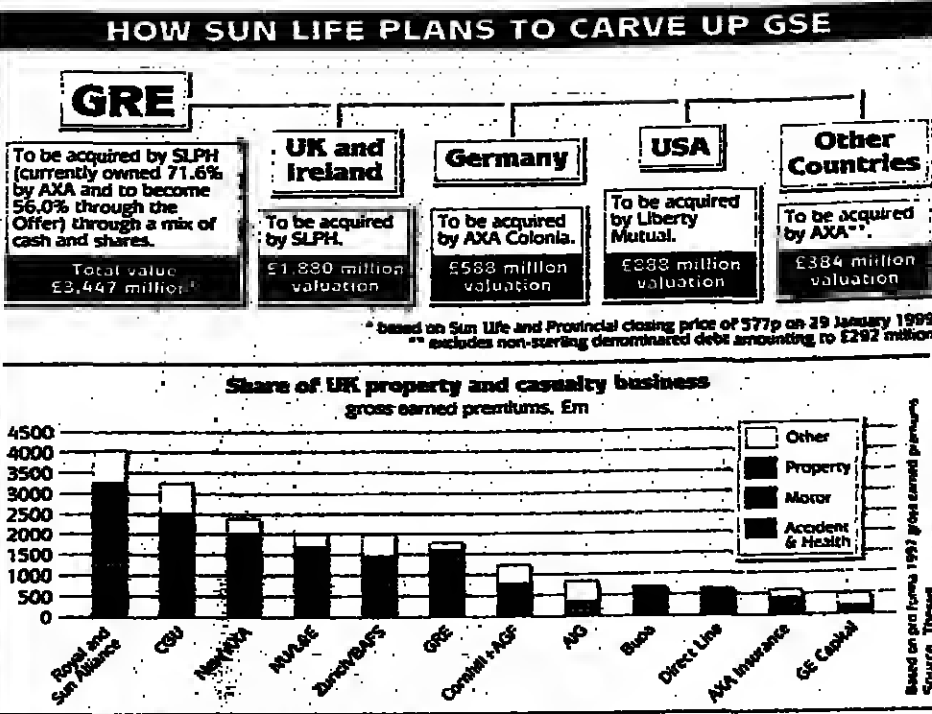
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CHIEF EXECUTIVE SET FOR £1M PAYOFF



JOHN ROBINS, chief executive of Guardian Royal Exchange (left), could depart with a payoff of well over £1m after saying at the weekend he wanted no part in a combined AXA/GRE insurance group.

Mr Robins, who until last summer was vociferously in favour of GRE remaining independent, is likely to receive two years' salary and

benefits worth around £550,000 a year. He was due to retire in February 2001.

According to last year's annual report from GRE, Mr Robins also held 144,350 shares last March, a holding now worth £545,000, and an annual retirement income of £132,800.

In 1997, he exercised share options, netting a further £554,000.

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Taunton

Wakefield

Warrington/Runcorn

Washington

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Wokingham

Wokingham

Wokingham

Wokingham

Wokingham

Wokingham

Aylesbury

Basildon

Bexley

Brentwood

Bristol

Cambridge

Dublin (IR)

Farnborough

Glasgow City

Glasgow Airport

Guilford

Haydock

Hemel Hempstead

High Wycombe

Hull Marina

Leeds

Maidstone/Sevenoaks

Manchester Airport

Milton Keynes

Newcastle upon Tyne

Norwich

Nottingham City

Nottingham/Derby

Preston

Reading

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Southampton

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National Grid in \$1bn US deal

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

NATIONAL GRID yesterday strengthened its presence in the US electricity market by agreeing to buy the Boston-based transmission and supply company Eastern Utilities Associates in a deal worth \$1bn.

The acquisition is being carried out through the much bigger New England Electric System, which National Grid agreed to buy in December for \$4.6bn.

The purchase price is \$31 a share - a 23 per cent premium to EUA's price in early December before merger speculation began.

National Grid is paying \$634m for EUA and assuming a further \$365m in debt. However, National Grid is expected to recoup about \$180m through sales of unwanted assets such as EUA's combined heat and power generating plants.

Analysts estimated that National Grid would realise savings of at least \$25m a year by merging the transmission and distribution businesses of the two companies, which operate next to each other in the north-east region of the US.

National Grid said it hoped to receive regulatory and shareholder approval for both the US acquisitions by early 2000.

The aim is to complete the two deals on the same timetable. EUA has 300,000 customers and made net profits of \$40m on revenues of \$569m in 1997. New England Electric System has 1.35 million customers.

At the time of the NEES deal, National Grid's chief executive, David Jones, made it clear that it was on the lookout for further acquisitions. He said the EUA deal was fully in line with that strategy.

English China Clays agrees Imetal £756m bid

THE BOARD of English China Clays yesterday accepted an increased offer of 250p a share in cash from Imetal, its French rival, just three weeks after rejecting an initial offer of 225p.

The new bid gives ECC's long-suffering shareholders 11 per cent more than the first offer. It is 56 per cent higher than the market price of the shares before the first bid was made last month, and values ECC at £756m.

Imetal is only slightly larger in terms of market capitalisation but is a more diversified company with interests in metals as well as china clay.

Dennis Redeker, the ECC's chief executive, rejected the first bid as opportunistic and inadequate but, in the absence of a white knight, the ECC board

recommended shareholders accept the increased offer. ECC's management is halfway through a three-year programme of cost-saving measures aimed at adjusting to increased competition from low cost china-clay production in Brazil, the adverse impact of the strength of sterling, and a continuing low level of demand from the industry's main customers in the pottery, ceramics and paper producing industries.

French connection gets banks guessing

ANOTHER DAY, another banking merger. The French being the French, this one is a strictly Gallic affair but with the added bonus that most of the cost savings, and therefore most of the job losses, will be in London, not Paris. Where exactly the merged Société Générale Paribas ranks in the pecking order of world banks is not terribly clear.



OUTLOOK

Never mind, it is a national French champion, knocking Credit Agricole off its perch as the number one bank on the other side of the Channel. What's more it may just be the kick in the derriere the over-banked French market needed.

The creation of SG Paribas gives the French a seat at the big boys' table. It also neatly dispenses with one of the main obstacles to the French government's sale of Credit Lyonnais. No wonder the finance minister Dominique Strauss-Kahn was jumping for joy at the merger yesterday.

As with the SBC-UBS merger, it is not hard to see where most of the pain will be felt among the 78,000

ings within three years gives the management plenty to aim at. Paribas' opulent new headquarters in Maylebone may be one early casualty while the wine bars of the City should be filling soon with fixed income dealers and equity analysts drowning their sorrows and looking for new employment.

Inevitably questions will now be asked of that dwindling band of European banks which still remain outside larger national or transatlantic groupings. Consolidate or die certainly makes for an easy catchphrase. Given the pace of merger activity among Continental banks, there is a danger that Don Cruickshank's review of the UK banking scene could look even more parochial by the time he publishes his conclusions.

But the UK banking industry is structured in a way that makes it difficult, if not impossible, to adopt the same national solutions as the Swiss, the French and the Spanish, as the failure of Barclays and NatWest to merge shows.

The word from Paris yesterday was that SG Paribas has ambitions to spread its wings further. There is also talk that Banque Nationale de Paris will be obliged to look overseas for a partner. Sitting on their fat market capitalisations and hemmed in by domestic monopoly constraints, it may be time for the UK clearers to strike pre-emptively across borders.

Tax loopholes

IT SAYS a lot about the complexity of stamp duty reserve tax that mere whisper of it sends even hardened specialists scurrying for cover. Yet, arcane as it may be, it is a nice little earner for the Exchequer. Projected revenues of £2.4bn for the 1998-99 financial year were enough to prompt an Inland Revenue swoop at the weekend to plug a loophole that was in danger of looking like a yawning chasm.

What was a dark corner of the tax world was suddenly bathed in light, when BP and Amoco escaped pay-

ing \$800m in duty during their merger last year by issuing new shares as foreign currency bearer shares instead of American Depositary Receipts, through which US investors usually deal in UK equities. The saving arose because the bearer shares were made exempt from the 1.5 per cent stamp duty reserve tax in 1989 in order to assist companies wanting to borrow overseas.

The Revenue says that, while this purpose will continue to be allowed, it has cracked down on transactions which the legislation was not designed to cover. However, though the ruling applies from midnight last Friday, it is apparent that it has failed to stop similar tax savings by two other high-profile cross-border deals involving UK companies - the \$35bn merger of pharmaceutical company Zeneca and its Swedish rival, Astra, and Vodafone's \$62bn purchase of AirTouch.

In taking this swift action, Patricia Hewitt, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, is probably on to a winner. Though the tax hauls are large,

the sums are unlikely to be enough to - by themselves - to stem the tide of cross border mergers.

Hence, the Chancellor can look forward to a steady and easily collected revenue flow - which is presumably why the Conservatives never got around to abolishing stamp duty on shares and securities all together. Some globally-minded chief executives may complain it puts the UK at a disadvantage. But if a merger can only be made to work because of its tax efficiencies, then it is almost certainly not worth doing in the first place.

BAe/Marconi

ONE OF the secondary complications of the British Aerospace-Marconi merger is what to do with procurement contests where the two companies are currently bidding in competition with one another. Right now there are several major procurement programmes where BAe

and Marconi are members of rival consortia. Thus, we had the spectacle yesterday of BAe and Lockheed receiving £90m of taxpayer's money to develop a new stealthy armoured reconnaissance vehicle while BAe in the shape of Marconi received the a similar amount to help GKN develop a rival demonstrator vehicle.

There are two other big defence contracts where BAe is competing with itself using taxpayer's funds. One is a new military satellite communications system. The other is a new airborne stand-off radar.

Awkward though the situation is, BAe says that it is not without precedent. Marconi also ended up competing against itself to build the latest Astute class of nuclear-powered submarines after it bought the only rival bidder, VSEL.

BAe says solemnly that where it is bidding against itself, Chinese Walls will be strictly observed. But taxpayers will wonder if they are being shortchanged while BAe's partners have even more grounds for concern.

Auditors face Maxwell verdict today

THE ACCOUNTANCY profession is braced for swinging action against the world's biggest firm today, when its most senior watchdog is expected to deliver its long-awaited report on Coopers & Lybrand's role as auditor of the late Robert Maxwell's business empire.

Coopers, now part of PricewaterhouseCoopers, could be forced to pay huge fines, while the four partners who were investigated by the profession's Joint Disciplinary Scheme could be expelled from the Institute of Chartered Accountants.

Accountancy insiders expect that, if any of the parties are found guilty, the punishments will be heavy, in the interests of demonstrating to the public that the profession is determined to take tough disciplinary action if required.

The findings will come more than seven years after Robert Maxwell died, apparently after falling from his yacht in the Canary Islands. His empire of more than 400 companies - almost all of which were audited by Coopers - then collapsed, revealing a £400m "black hole" of missing pension funds.



Robert Maxwell: £400m pension funds missing

The complaints laid against Coopers by Chris Dickson, executive counsel to the JDS, concern the Maxwell pension funds, Mirror Group Newspapers and the late tycoon's private businesses. One of the complaints said: "Coopers should have considered whether there was evidence of fraud, other irregularities, defaults or unlawful acts necessitating a report to a proper authority."

Coopers and the partners involved have consistently denied any wrongdoing. Mr Dickson concluded his investigation last summer, and a tribunal consisting of a senior QC and two accountants considered his findings later in the year.

Although the investigation has taken more than seven years to conclude, it could have been delayed still longer if Coopers had succeeded in having it postponed until the completion of a lawsuit claiming that the firm was negligent.

Regent and SFI in pub merger talks

THE PUB GROUPS Regent Inns and SFI confirmed yesterday that they were in merger talks, oring shares in both groups higher. The companies said their chief executives had met to exchange views and formal discussions would begin "in the near future," writes Nigel Cope.

Shares in Regent jumped 1p to 191p, with SFI up 13p to 91.5p as analysts speculated that rival bidders may enter the fray. However, some pub experts said the ratings of both companies would deter other bidders.

Regent Inns controls 83 pubs including a handful of branded outlets under the Walkabout Inns name. It also controls the Jongleurs comedy clubs. SFI, formerly known as Surrey Free Inns, has 55 pubs including the Bar Med and Litten Tree chains.

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Mortgage Express (No. 2), formerly known as Mortgage Express Limited, and Mortgage Express, Registered in England No. 891681
 Scottish Home Loans (No. 2) Limited, Registered in England No. 2220177
 Finance for Mortgages Limited, Registered in England No. 2220176
 Silhouette Mortgages Limited, Registered in England No. 2356078
 Mortgage Express, Registered in England No. 2405490
 Registered Office: 1 Lyonsdown Road, New Barnet, Herts EN5 1HU

Individual notifications will go out to customers shortly advising them of their revised monthly payment.

House prices rising again
 HOUSE PRICES have risen for a second month in a row, according to a new survey by Halifax. The average price for a UK home rose by 0.2 per cent in January, to £104,000. Halifax said the increase was due to a combination of factors, including a rise in the number of properties sold and a fall in the number of properties for sale.

Other Countries
 The UK's economic performance is being compared to other major economies. The US is expected to show a strong recovery, while Japan's growth is slowing. Germany's economy is also showing signs of recovery.

Golf ball sale
 GOLFERS are being urged to buy British-made golf balls. A campaign is being launched to encourage the use of domestic products. The campaign is being led by the British Golf Association.

Regalan link
 A link has been found between the Regalan and the SFI. The link is being used to promote the companies' products. The link is being used to promote the companies' products.

Nice under attack
 A group of people are attacking the Nice. The group is claiming that the Nice is a bad company. The group is claiming that the Nice is a bad company.

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Stocks	Price	Chg	Vol	Stocks	Price	Chg	Vol
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101	243	100	100	101	243	100	100
102	244	100	100	102	244	100	100
103	245	100	100	103	245	100	100
104	246	100	100	104	246	100	100
105	247	100	100	105	247	100	100
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SPORT

Ireland worth a flutter but France still fancied

THE LATEST odds for the Five Nations' Championship are: England evens, France 6-5, Wales 9-1, Ireland 20-1 and Scotland 50-1. England are slightly, though not much, better value than they were a few weeks ago. The biggest surprise, to me at any rate, is that Ireland and Wales have not changed places, in view of Ulster's winning of the European Cup, London Irish's continuing success in English rugby and the Irish liking for taking a bet.

I should have expected the weight of Irish money to make the odds less generous. But then, I am not a betting man or really a gambler at all. For me the pain of losing is greater than the pleasure of winning. As it is such hard work to get hold of the stuff in the first place

money, I mean - it is silly to give it away to the gentlemen with the big cigars and the Gladstone bags.

As far as Ireland are concerned, the bookies may be wiser than we know. They usually are. Only three of Saturday's triumphant side in Dublin look like appearing there this Saturday in the match against France: Jonathan Bell, David Humphreys and Andy Ward. With Malcolm O'Kelly injured, the same number from Dick Best's London Irish will get in: the back three of Conor O'Shea, Justin Bishop and Niall Woods.

The injury to O'Kelly is not such a blow to the side as it might have been. Jeremy Davidson, who is by all accounts restored to full vigour at Castres, can move into the

second row to partner Paddy Johns. I must confess that if I were Warren Gatland, Ireland's New Zealand coach (New Zealanders are everywhere these days), I should be tempted to restore Simon Mason to the side for the metronomic kicking that wins matches, and play O'Shea in the centre with Bell.

Yet, in modern rugby the back three are as much a unit as the front row, the back row or the halfbacks. O'Shea, Bishop and Woods have been playing so well for London Irish lately that it would be a pity to break the combination.

It is the kind of combination which Graham Henry, Wales' New Zealand coach, does not have at his disposal. His fellow-countryman Shane Howarth, another of those



ALAN WATKINS

southern-hemisphere players who have suddenly discovered a convenient grandparent, is a fine attacking full-back, capable of winning a match on his own. But the wings are more doubtful propositions.

It was even being suggested before yesterday's announcement of the side that Henry would play Allan Bateman on the wing, retaining the Swansea combination of Mark Taylor and Scott Gibbs in the centre. This proposal was typical of Welsh selectors of old that we have come to know and love or, rather, laugh at. In Bateman you are lucky enough to have one of the best centres in Europe, if not the world. And what do you do with him? You play him on the wing of course. What else?

Anyway, I am glad that Henry has resisted this suggestion, even if the wings he has chosen do not inspire an over-abundance of confidence. Dafydd James is a big, strong, courageous performer who is a natural centre. He has never

appeared at ease on the wing. Apart from anything else, he is not fast enough for international rugby. Gareth Thomas, who is injured, is of a similar type but has managed the transition from centre, his original position, with more success.

The other wing, Matthew Robinson, I have not seen. He has been in the Swansea side only a matter of months. I wish him well, but he must count himself a fortunate young man. I wonder what is going through the mind of that other Swansea wing, Simon Davies. When Swansea last played South Africa, I saw him comprehensively outpace the visitors' defence, not once, but twice in the first half, when Swansea were in the lead. True they lost by 70-odd points in the second

half, but that was not Davies' fault. Davies has never been given a chance of any kind in the Welsh side. The wisecracker said of him, as they say of every really fast wing, that "his defence is suspect". They said it of Davies and Nigel Walker in Wales, of Andrew Harriman in England. They did not say it in Wales of Wayne Proctor, who can also shift. Even so, he is not in Saturday's side either.

The truth is that Henry has progressed a certain distance but no further. He has produced the spine of the side but little more. Still, I expect Wales to beat Scotland and France to beat Ireland who, however, remain the good value bet.

I am backing France for the Championship, none the less.

Super Bowl XXXIII: Broncos make it two in a row as Falcons have wings clipped by inspirational quarterback

Veteran Elway basks in glory

AS SWANSONGS go, this was a compelling finale. Playing what may be the last game of a glittering 16-year career, John Elway gave one of his most accomplished performances to lead the Denver Broncos to a 34-19 triumph over the Atlanta Falcons in Super Bowl XXXIII. The win, far more impressive than the final scoreline suggests, means that the Broncos have successfully defended their title, and that Elway has completed the challenge he set himself last June, when he announced his return for one final season.

Now speculation has already begun that he may be tempted to come back next year to further enhance his reputation as one of the most inspirational quarterbacks to have ever played the game. "This definitely throws a kink into what I decide to do next year," he said. "But I am not even going to cross that bridge for a while. I'm going to enjoy this win because this is what I have been working nine months for. This is why I came back."

If this is finally the end, Elway signed off with a flourish. He completed 18 of his 29 passing attempts for 336 yards and a touchdown, but more significant than the numbers was the manner in which he dismantled Atlanta's imposing defence: the Falcons simply could not find a way to stop him. To nobody's surprise, Elway was a unanimous choice of the game's Most Valuable Player.

Atlanta came into the contest as underdogs, but full of confidence in their ability to spring an upset. Those hopes appeared justified when they took the opening kick-off and drove impressively down the field. The running back Jamal Anderson made a bright start, gaining 24 yards on five carries as the Falcons penetrated deep

BY NICK HALLING
in Miami

into Denver territory. They were unable to score a touchdown, however, settling instead for a 32-yard field goal from Morten Andersen.

Elway's response was swift. A pair of completions to Shannon Sharpe and another to Rod Smith saw Denver progress to Atlanta's goal-line, from where Howard Griffith plunged in for the game's first touchdown. The Broncos had the lead and never looked in danger of losing it.

Their rivals had chances but failed to capitalise on them. Elway was intercepted by Ronnie Bradford when Sharpe failed to hold on to a simple catch, but nothing came of it. Surprisingly, the normally reliable Andersen then missed a routine 26-yard field goal, and the self belief that had propelled Atlanta through a fairytale season began to ebb away.

It must have been particularly galling for their head coach, Dan Reeves. Earlier in his career, Reeves had guided the Broncos to three Super Bowl appearances, only to be on the receiving end every time. Now, he was suffering again, seemingly powerless as his former team pounded his current one. "I really love every one of these players, they have been a very special group and I am proud of the way they handled the thing," he said. "We just didn't play well and I knew if we didn't play well we would get beat. We just didn't get the job done."

Reeves, who underwent quadruple bypass heart surgery six weeks ago, was named coach of the year for the manner in which he transformed perennial strugglers into championship contenders, but

after four heavy Super Bowl reverses he must be wondering if he is destined never to win his sport's ultimate prize. The Broncos, and Elway, in particular, compounded his misery on a rainy Sunday night in Miami. Ironically, on the very next play after Andersen's missed field goal, Elway threw an 80-yard touchdown pass to Rod Smith to give Denver a 14-3 advantage.

The play was made against Atlanta's veteran defensive back, Eugene Robinson. A Super Bowl winner with Green Bay two years ago, Robinson was arrested for soliciting the night before the game and, although he was released on bail, the incident further confirmed the belief that Atlanta were doomed to failure.

"The ramifications are far reaching, and you have no idea of the gravity of the situation," he said. "That long pass is really going to haunt me. I tried to make an interception, but to John Elway's credit he threw the ball long enough so that I had no shot."

After that, it was all Denver. The running back Terrell Davis gained 102 yards on 25 attempts but other lesser names enjoyed their moment of glory. Griffith claimed his second touchdown of the night with another short yardage run. The cornerback Darrien Gordon intercepted Atlanta quarterback Chris Chandler twice at key moments in the third quarter, while the former Scottish Claymore, George Coghill, caused

a fumble to extinguish another Atlanta drive.

The Falcons' only bright spots came on Tim Dwight's electrifying 94-yard kick-off return for a touchdown, and Chandler's three-yard pass to Terrence Mathis. Fittingly, Elway scored his team's last touchdown, a three-yard run with 11 minutes remaining.

Now attention is turning to the future, and there is little doubt that the Broncos want their leader to consider all his options. "I would love John to come back," said the team owner, Pat Bowlen. "What he has meant to this organisation and this city is unbelievable. I want him back."

"He is by far the best quarterback in the game, and prob-

ably of all time," said the receiver Ed McCaffrey. "I am extremely fortunate to have had the opportunity to play for him and win two Super Bowls with him."

Just like this time last year, Elway is revealing little. He will discuss things with his wife Janet and their four children, and has promised an imminent announcement.

The feeling is that Elway would like to leave the game as a winner and there can be no greater personal accomplishment than his brilliance on Sunday. Then again, no team in the game's history has ever won three Super Bowls in succession. The challenge may tempt him to delay retirement once again.



Shannon Sharpe, of the Denver Broncos, is sent crashing to the ground by Ray Buchanan, of the Atlanta Falcons, while (right) John Elway celebrates his touchdown to seal a dominating performance Reuters/AP



TOMORROW

Bill McLaren, the BBC's voice of rugby union, talks to Brian Viner as he looks forward to this Saturday's Five Nations' Championship

Sense of unease in Olympic movement

MEMBERS OF the International Olympic Committee gather in Lausanne this week to tackle an issue which threatens to undermine their movement. No, not bribery. Doping abuse.

But as delegates and officials seek to make crucial policy decisions in the long-awaited World Conference on Doping in Sport, they are in danger of having their attention distracted by the escalating scandal surrounding charges of bribery and corruption within the IOC.

Many IOC members will be feeling distinctly unsettled by yesterday's news that the FBI, investigating the charges of

bribery by those who secured the 2002 Winter Olympics for Salt Lake City, has issued subpoenas to two educational institutions in Utah and asked them to check the names of 60 IOC officials.

The FBI's line of enquiry, on behalf of the US Department of Justice, follows allegations that free scholarships were offered to members of IOC representatives' families in an effort to gain their support for the bid.

Olympic leaders are stressing that the FBI is not investigating IOC officials directly, but the latest initiative will increase the sense of unease in a movement which has already seen the res-

The World Conference on Doping starts today in Lausanne against a disturbing backdrop of scandal. By Mike Rowbottom

ignation of four IOC members and the temporary exclusion of five others pending a vote on their expulsion. The IOC president, who has faced a barrage of calls for his own resignation, will seek to shore up his position by calling for a vote of confidence from IOC members next month.

It is against this background that what could be one of the most telling advances against the problem of doping abuse in sport will take place.

One of the major functions of

the World Conference, which takes place over three days starting today, was to make Samaranch's position more secure after the disastrous statement he was reported to have made last year implying that if doping did not actually harm athletes, it was acceptable. His words provoked a storm of outrage within the sporting community, and indeed the IOC itself, as it appeared to contradict the IOC position on doping.

The general thrust of this conference is to establish a clear and co-ordinated doping policy ahead of the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, a policy that will stand up to the legal challenges that have undermined efforts to apply sanctions to doping offenders in the last 10 years.

There are hopes that there will be significant movement on the issue of blood doping and instituting a test that has been researched to determine illegal levels of human growth hormone, a naturally occurring

substance which is believed to be widely employed by cheats.

One of the tactics being employed against those athletes who take civil actions against doping bans on the grounds of restraint of trade is to impose bans that will keep offenders out of the biggest competitions, such as the Olympic Games, while allowing them to make a living.

At its meeting on 20 August last year, the IOC executive committee established working parties to look into four crucial areas. Under the chairmanship of Dick Pound, the man charged with the IOC's internal investigation into bribery and corrup-

tion, one working party will recommend establishing a \$15m (£9.2m) Olympic Movement Anti-Doping Agency. It will extend drug testing beyond the period of the Games itself, and is intended to be an independent body run by a board drawn from the Olympic movement, governments, medical and scientific bodies, and athletes.

In the meantime, the IOC has stressed it is not investigating Sydney's winning bid for the 2000 Olympics despite reports that members of Australia's national Olympic body offered financial inducements to IOC members before the vote in 1993.

Stewart may have to rest on his laurels

IF ALEC STEWART has ever asked for a rest, he was no doubt playing snooker at the time. Anything beyond that, like putting his feet up for an international cricket match after touring since October and having, wicketkeeping and being captain in five Tests and eight limited-overs games, does not feature in his vocabulary.

"I'm as good as gold," he said, when asked to describe his state of body and mind as England prepared for their ninth match in the Carlton & United Series, against Sri Lanka in Sydney tomorrow. Like the 10th, against Australia on Friday, it is effectively a dead contest. The two final places have already been decided and England and Australia have them. Stewart does not quite see it that way.

"We don't want to go into the final with two defeats. You want to ensure that whatever side you're putting out is one capable of beating the opposition. I don't want to miss games. These are international cricket matches, not dead games."

Stewart said that while he

CRICKET

BY STEPHEN BRECKLEY
in Sydney

kept playing he was fine. After he arrives home at the finish of the one-day series in two weeks he may have some time off. "When I don't have to do it, my body will just collapse for two weeks," he said. "You can be pretty sure I won't be practising."

He is obviously, and justifiably, proud of the statistics that he has not missed an England one-day match for which he has been available since the last World Cup (he was in Australia when a team went to Bangladesh last autumn), and even then he fielded for part of the time. That is more than 30 matches in which he has been opener and keeper.

For all Stewart's insistence on continuing his run, the decision might be taken out of his hands. It is his hands indeed which may be the reason. He has been playing with a bruised left thumb for several matches and, stoic though he is, it has clearly caused him discomfort.

This may be the time to discover John Crawley's capabilities as keeper at this level and to try to establish who might open if Stewart was forced out.

"I'm only one of three selectors so I might be outvoted 2-1. But my vote will be the one unless the physio is adamant that I should have a break," he said. It may be the perfect opportunity for him to have at least one game off but his attitude is admirable.

England, as they insist they have throughout this tournament, will be selecting from 16. Of course, it is important not to lose both the remaining qualifying matches but the four selectors will also be keen to give the fringe players a game. They may feel they have not discovered enough yet about the international propensity of Mark Alleyne, Vince Wells or even Ben Hollis. All three will come into the reckoning this week because, while England have made significant one-day progress in the past month, they still need to deduce the appropriate balance for the World Cup squad which must be announced next month.

There are 15 names for the World Cup and the thing is to make sure they are the right 15 guys. You have to make some hard decisions. When you're in possession and the team's doing well then it can be hard for some players back home."

England have different conditions to consider in the World Cup, they have to be sure of the international credentials of the men brought here as part of the selectorial intention to cast their net wide. But so far in this competition they have largely played sensibly and calmly. That must be borne in mind when it comes to next month.

The Sri Lankan opening batsman Sanath Jayasuriya will be out for at least six weeks after undergoing surgery on his broken arm in Melbourne yesterday. Jayasuriya suffered the injury when hit by a delivery from Australia's Brendon Julian on Sunday.



Damon Hill unveils the new Jordan-Mugen-Honda yesterday David Ashdown

Hill aims to regain his crown

MOTOR RACING

BY DENICK ALLSON

Frentzen, the German accommodated at Williams by Hill's dismissal. "I'm not one to bear a grudge," Hill said, when asked to consider the piquancy. "It was a decision Frank Williams took. It's nice to have Heinz-Harald as a team-mate and I'm sure we have a lot in common to discuss."

The smirk could have been interpreted any way you wanted, but it is clear he is relishing the chance to put this particular record straight.

Just as last season, when Ralf Schumacher was the team's other driver, Hill will share No 1 status. He voiced his dissatisfaction with the arrangement 12 months ago, yet insists he has no concerns with it this time. "I have no problem not being outright No 1," he said. "I was No 1 at Arrows and couldn't do anything with it. It's not relevant."

Jordan is happy with the strategy and confident of success. He said: "The monkey is off our back now and any pressure we have has to be easier to bear than in the previous eight years. Now there is a very strong element of self-confidence in the team, the drivers, the car and engine. That confidence takes the stress away from the problem. We can evaluate our progress and know we can improve. What we cannot evaluate as yet is the progress of the others, so it is impossible to say how far we can go."

The Englishman, who has always been required to prove himself in the eyes of a critical Formula One, will doubtless find an additional source of motivation in his pairing with

Emburey's side face test of experience

JOHN EMBUREY, the England A coach, will forgive his inexperienced side for suffering from pre-Test nerves as they face up to Zimbabwe in Harare tomorrow.

Only Andy Flintoff has appeared in a senior international, so Emburey anticipates a few butterflies in the stomachs of his younger players ahead of the first unofficial Test.

"I think they will feel the pressures of playing in an international match," he said. "Obviously they're chuffed to get selected for the tour but, once it comes to that first match, there's a sense of nervousness which is quite nice."

Heavy rain yesterday is not expected to prevent the five-day

match going ahead, despite cutting short the tourists' practice session at the Alexandra Sports Club yesterday.

Darren Thomas and Melvyn Betts will lead the attack. The Yorkshire pace bowler Paul Hitchison is returning home for treatment on his back injury, while Durham's Steve Harrison (sore shins) and Sussex bowler Jason Leary (knee) are unlikely to be risked until fully recovered. Dean Cosker and Graeme Swann will provide a contrasting spin attack.

Zimbabwe's A side are coached by Warwickshire's batsman, Trevor Penney, and will be led by the former Cambridge University captain Andy Whittall.

Grant helps England to bronze

THE ENGLAND Under-21 side

returned from the Czech Republic yesterday with a bronze medal to show for their efforts at the European Indoor Championships, but as the debate on the value of the indoor game continues, there is no certainty they will compete in future competitions of that sort.

England beat the hosts 5-1 in the third-place play-off with Helen Grant scoring four times

HOCKEY

BY BILL COLWELL

and the captain, Lisa Wooding, getting the fifth. Belarus, with a 4-2 win against Lithuania - who beat England 2-1 in the semi-final - took gold.

England's route to the semi-finals was paved with pool wins against Slovakia and France. In their final pool match England

were beaten 5-3 by Belarus.

In the Women's Indoor Premier play-off at Crystal Palace, Slough beat Hightown 3-1 in the final with Jane Smith scoring three times to secure a spot for her team in next season's European Cup Championships.

Chelmsford finished runners-up with Hightown third. There were no changes to the regional leaders over the weekend, although in the North,

Formby were held to a 1-1 draw by Durham University. The South leaders, Fareham, were beaten 2-1 at home by Tunbridge Wells with goals from Mark Elston and Matt Purchase. In the Hampshire regional league, the runaway leaders Old Georgians thrashed London University 12-0 with Gary Nott (5), Paul Way (3) and Mahmood Bhatti (2) doing most of the damage.

Kauhanen injury setback for Storm

A SERIOUS INJURY to their net-minder, Tino Kauhanen, overshadowed Manchester Storm's 2-1 Superleague win against Newcastle Riverkings on Sunday.

The Finnish stopper, in his first game for Storm, was taken off after four minutes when he collided with Riverkings' Rob Trumbley and was taken to hospital with suspected broken ribs.

His replacement, Frank Pietrangola, followed the Riverkings with a string of five saves after Darren McAusland had cut their advantage to one goal with 15 minutes remaining. Manchester overcame the loss of Kauhanen and took the lead through Jeff Jablonski four minutes later. Blair Scott doubled the lead in the second period before Pietrangola's heroics maintained their three-point lead at the top.

Cardiff Devils made it six

ICE HOCKEY

wins in a row with a 4-0 success over the struggling London Knights. Goals came from Mario Simion, with two, Steve Thornton and Merv Priest.

The surprise result of the night came in Scotland, where Ayr Scottish Eagles thrashed Nottingham Panthers 6-3. Second-period goals from Mark Montanari, Dennis Purdie, Jeff Hoad and Dino Baubta took Mike Blaisdell's under-strength side by surprise, following Mark Woolf's opening goal after four minutes.

Sheffield Steelers overcame Bracknell Bees by recorded a 4-2 success at the Arena. Goals from Ed Courtenay, Tedder Wynne and Jason Heywood within seven second-period minutes put Steelers on course.

WEEKEND FIXTURES AND POOLS FORECAST

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP	
1 Aston Villa v Blackburn	18 Bolton v Manchester City
2 Chelsea v Southampton	19 Leeds v Newcastle
3 Liverpool v Manchester City	20 Tottenham v Coventry
4 Leicester v Sheffield Wednesday	21 West Ham v Arsenal
5 Norwich v Middlesbrough	22 Sunderland v Everton
6 Tottenham v Coventry	23 Charlton v Wimbledon
7 Tottenham v Coventry	24 West Ham v Arsenal
8 Sunderland v Everton	25 Charlton v Wimbledon
9 Charlton v Wimbledon	26 West Ham v Arsenal
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76 Sunderland v Everton	93 Charlton v Wimbledon
77 Charlton v Wimbledon	94 West Ham v Arsenal
78 Sunderland v Everton	95 Charlton v Wimbledon
79 Charlton v Wimbledon	96 West Ham v Arsenal
80 Sunderland v Everton	97 Charlton v Wimbledon
81 Charlton v Wimbledon	98 West Ham v Arsenal
82 Sunderland v Everton	99 Charlton v Wimbledon
83 Charlton v Wimbledon	100 West Ham v Arsenal

TAUNTON

HYPERION

1.40 Salamah 2.10 Medium Wave 2.40 Native Flying 3.10 North 3.40 Pennywise 4.10 Country Store 4.40 Mister Generosity

GOING: Hurdle course - Good to Soft (Soft in places); chase course - Soft (Good to Soft in places).

Right-hand course. Run-in of 200yds.

Course is 2 1/2 miles (4,000 yds) from the station 2m. ADMIS- SION: Members 12p; Ladies 8p; Centre of Course 12p. Accompanied under 16s free. CAR PARK: Centre of course 22p; remainder free.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 42-230 (20%), P Hobbs 27-10 (24%), R Hodge 7-12 (12%), P Nicholls 10-48 (14%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 25-50 (58%), M A Fitzgerald 23-10 (52%), C McKeown 12-10 (52%).

FAVOURITES: 1st time: Cheryl Coe (winded, 210), Karadell (230), Langstaff (240), Ivory Coast (230).

IDEAL WEDDING RECEPTION NOVICE

HURDLE (D) £2,900 added 2m 11yds

1. 00-22 EXPLAN TIME (D) £2,900 added 2m 11yds

2. 00-22 EXPLAN TIME (D) £2,900 added 2m 11yds

3. 00-22 EXPLAN TIME (D) £2,900 added 2m 11yds

4. 00-22 EXPLAN TIME (D) £2,900 added 2m 11yds

5. 00-22 EXPLAN TIME (D) £2,900 added 2m 11yds

6. 00-22 EXPLAN TIME (D) £2,900 added 2m 11yds

7. 00-22 EXPLAN TIME (D) £2,900 added 2m 11yds

8. 00-22 EXPLAN TIME (D) £2,900 added 2m 11yds

9. 00-22 EXPLAN TIME (D) £2,900 added 2m 11yds

10. 00-22 EXPLAN TIME (D) £2,900 added 2m 11yds

FORM GUIDE

An above-average race for novice riders. It remains to be seen if the horses will be as good as they were in their last race. The horses are of a decent enough standard for this to be a much contested race.

FORM GUIDE

North's Breese was best of these four horses but it remains to be seen if he will be as good as he was in his last race. The horses are of a decent enough standard for this to be a much contested race.

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TAUNTON EXHIBITION CENTRE NOVICE

HURDLE (D) £2,900 added 2m 11yds

1. 00-22 EXPLAN TIME (D) £2,900 added 2m 11yds

2. 00-22 EXPLAN TIME (D) £2,900 added 2m 11yds

3. 00-22 EXPLAN TIME (D) £2,900 added 2m 11yds

4. 00-22 EXPLAN TIME (D) £2,900 added 2m 11yds

5. 00-22 EXPLAN TIME (D) £2,900 added 2m 11yds

6. 00-22 EXPLAN TIME (D) £2,900 added 2m 11yds

7. 00-22 EXPLAN TIME (D) £2,900 added 2m 11yds

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STAPLEMEAD SEMINAR SUITE MAIDEN

HURDLE (D) £2,900 added 2m 11yds

1. 00-22 EXPLAN TIME (D) £2,900 added 2m 11yds

2. 00-22 EXPLAN TIME (D) £2,900 added 2m 11yds

3. 00-22 EXPLAN TIME (D) £2,900 added 2m 11yds

4. 00-22 EXPLAN TIME (D) £2,900 added 2m 11yds

5. 00-22 EXPLAN TIME (D) £2,900 added 2m 11yds

6. 00-22 EXPLAN TIME (D) £2,900 added 2m 11yds

7. 00-22 EXPLAN TIME (D) £2,900 added 2m 11yds

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SADDLE ROOM DISCO HANDICAP

CHASE (CLASS F) £5,000 added 3m

1. 00-22 EXPLAN TIME (D) £5,000 added 3m

2. 00-22 EXPLAN TIME (D) £5,000 added 3m

3. 00-22 EXPLAN TIME (D) £5,000 added 3m

4. 00-22 EXPLAN TIME (

ill aims regain s crown

Pearl is ready for last ditch attempt

THE FORM BOOK tells us that the biggest danger to Florida Pearl is big and dark, like the great horse himself, nurtured in Ireland.

This nemesis is not a beast, however, but rather the third last fence at Leopardstown, at which Willie Mullins' seven-year-old came to grief in the Ericsson Chase on his latest start. That obstacle, a ditch, put a dent in Florida Pearl's unbeaten record over Christmas, and his rivals in Sunday's Irish Gold Cup back at Leopardstown may anticipate a recurrence. It is not a straw they should grab too tightly.

Florida Pearl has cleared that fence profitably in two races during his novice season. It is a barrier he has crossed expertly since the Ericsson while schooling. Indeed, it is probably his favourite obstacle.

"Strangely enough, it is the one fence that, when he'd jumped it the twice before in races, he'd really pinged and got a length at," Mullins said yesterday. "It seems to be a favourite fence of his, so it was both surprising and disappointing when he'd been there because they'd gone a right clobber and burned off the other

horses," Mullins said, "but Richard told me he hadn't asked him a question at that stage."

"He didn't actually fall and hit the ground, he went down on his tummy. He got up straight away galloped on and jumped two hurdles, which tells me he wasn't tired at the time. A tired horse would have fallen, rolled over and taken all day to get up. He was up before Richard."

Florida Pearl was a glutton for this punishment. Afterwards he ate up twice, as Mullins did not realise the horse had been fed before being returned to his lodgings at Bagenalstown in Co Carlow. Now the big horse must devour a maximum of 10 opponents on Sunday, among whom there are likely to be two British challengers.

Florida Pearl is the 11-10 favourite with Ladbrokes, in front of David Nicholson's Escartefigue (6-4), with whom he had such a compelling struggle in the Royal & Sun Alliance Novices' Chase at last year's Festival. Addington Boy (40-1) makes his debut for Percy Murphy if the soft ground firms up. "It would need to dry out a bit, but he is near enough a certain runner as the forecast is for a dry week," the trainer said yesterday. "Adrian Maguire will ride and if the ground is lively, I am looking for a good run. Obviously we won't trouble the major ones, but he worked well at the weekend, and he has been aimed at this race."

Addington Boy's schedule also includes the Grand National, which is also likely to be the next port of call for the title holder and another Sunday entry, Earth Summit. "He will probably go straight to Aintree, though if it was really wet, we might just have a look at the Gold Cup," Nigel Payne, one of the gelding's co-owners, said yesterday. "We want to give him an extended break and have him bursting out of his skin for Aintree."

The programme for Florida Pearl's great Gold Cup rival, Teeton Mill, was also established yesterday. The grey will have his time-up for the blue riband over two and a half miles in the Mitsubishi Shogun Ascot Chase two weeks on Saturday. "There aren't many races in which he can run be-



Florida Pearl beats Escartefigue at Cheltenham last March. The pair reoppose at Leopardstown on Sunday

fore Cheltenham and if that race didn't take place, he could yet go straight to the Festival." Venetia Williams, the trainer, said yesterday. "He hasn't got to have a run."

Meanwhile, Lord Glylene, the 1997 Grand National winner, heads the weights for the Singer & Friedlander National

Malta shines while Boxer hits canvas

ANTE-POST
UPDATE

CYFOR MALTA did his Cheltenham Gold Cup claims no harm with a four-length victory over Go Ballistic, with See More Business six lengths back in third, in the Pillar Chase at Cheltenham on Saturday. But Unsinkable Boxer, his stablemate, looks a dodgy Gold Cup bet after coming a cropper two out in a novices' handicap chase on the same card.

Lady Rebecca, became favourite for the Stayers' Hurdle after her 20-length triumph in the Grade One Cleve Hurdle, while Hara La Loi III boosted his Triumph Hurdle prospects with an impressive 3/4-length victory over Behran, the Twelfth Novices' Hurdle winner, in the Finesse Hurdle. However, Francois Doumen's four-year-old is also

TOTE GOLD CUP HURDLE (2m 110yds)

Horse (trainer)	Cost	Wt	Wt	Wt	Wt
Unsinkable Boxer (J. Williams)	5-1	5-2	5-1	5-4	5-1
Go Ballistic (J. Williams)	4-1	4-1	4-1	4-1	4-1
See More Business (J. Williams)	16-1	16-1	16-1	16-1	16-1
Other runners	16-1	16-1	16-1	16-1	16-1

ARKLE (NOVICE) CHASE (2m)

Horse (trainer)	Cost	Wt	Wt	Wt	Wt
Ark (J. Williams)	5-1	5-1	5-1	5-1	5-1
Other runners	5-1	5-1	5-1	5-1	5-1

CHAMPION HURDLE (2m 110yds)

Horse (trainer)	Cost	Wt	Wt	Wt	Wt
Champion (J. Williams)	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2
Other runners	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2

QUEEN MOTHER CHAMPION CHASE (2m)

Horse (trainer)	Cost	Wt	Wt	Wt	Wt
Queen Mother (J. Williams)	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2
Other runners	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2

ROYAL & SUN ALLIANCE (NOVICE) CHASE (3m 110yds)

Horse (trainer)	Cost	Wt	Wt	Wt	Wt
Royal & Sun Alliance (J. Williams)	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2
Other runners	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2

TRIUMPH HURDLE (2m 110yds)

Horse (trainer)	Cost	Wt	Wt	Wt	Wt
Triumph (J. Williams)	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2
Other runners	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2

STAYERS' HURDLE (3m 110yds)

Horse (trainer)	Cost	Wt	Wt	Wt	Wt
Stayers' Hurdle (J. Williams)	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2
Other runners	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2

CHELTENHAM GOLD CUP CHASE (3m 2110yds)

Horse (trainer)	Cost	Wt	Wt	Wt	Wt
Cheltenham Gold Cup (J. Williams)	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2
Other runners	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2

MUSSELBURGH

HYPERION
1.30 Es Go
2.00 Finisterre
2.30 Ballad Minstrel
3.00 Adamic

GOING: Good (Good to Soft in places).
Highland overcast with light rain.
Course: 5m 5f, 6f, 7f, 8f, 9f, 10f, 11f, 12f, 13f, 14f, 15f, 16f, 17f, 18f, 19f, 20f, 21f, 22f, 23f, 24f, 25f, 26f, 27f, 28f, 29f, 30f, 31f, 32f, 33f, 34f, 35f, 36f, 37f, 38f, 39f, 40f, 41f, 42f, 43f, 44f, 45f, 46f, 47f, 48f, 49f, 50f, 51f, 52f, 53f, 54f, 55f, 56f, 57f, 58f, 59f, 60f, 61f, 62f, 63f, 64f, 65f, 66f, 67f, 68f, 69f, 70f, 71f, 72f, 73f, 74f, 75f, 76f, 77f, 78f, 79f, 80f, 81f, 82f, 83f, 84f, 85f, 86f, 87f, 88f, 89f, 90f, 91f, 92f, 93f, 94f, 95f, 96f, 97f, 98f, 99f, 100f, 101f, 102f, 103f, 104f, 105f, 106f, 107f, 108f, 109f, 110f, 111f, 112f, 113f, 114f, 115f, 116f, 117f, 118f, 119f, 120f, 121f, 122f, 123f, 124f, 125f, 126f, 127f, 128f, 129f, 130f, 131f, 132f, 133f, 134f, 135f, 136f, 137f, 138f, 139f, 140f, 141f, 142f, 143f, 144f, 145f, 146f, 147f, 148f, 149f, 150f, 151f, 152f, 153f, 154f, 155f, 156f, 157f, 158f, 159f, 160f, 161f, 162f, 163f, 164f, 165f, 166f, 167f, 168f, 169f, 170f, 171f, 172f, 173f, 174f, 175f, 176f, 177f, 178f, 179f, 180f, 181f, 182f, 183f, 184f, 185f, 186f, 187f, 188f, 189f, 190f, 191f, 192f, 193f, 194f, 195f, 196f, 197f, 198f, 199f, 200f, 201f, 202f, 203f, 204f, 205f, 206f, 207f, 208f, 209f, 210f, 211f, 212f, 213f, 214f, 215f, 216f, 217f, 218f, 219f, 220f, 221f, 222f, 223f, 224f, 225f, 226f, 227f, 228f, 229f, 230f, 231f, 232f, 233f, 234f, 235f, 236f, 237f, 238f, 239f, 240f, 241f, 242f, 243f, 244f, 245f, 246f, 247f, 248f, 249f, 250f, 251f, 252f, 253f, 254f, 255f, 256f, 257f, 258f, 259f, 260f, 261f, 262f, 263f, 264f, 265f, 266f, 267f, 268f, 269f, 270f, 271f, 272f, 273f, 274f, 275f, 276f, 277f, 278f, 279f, 280f, 281f, 282f, 283f, 284f, 285f, 286f, 287f, 288f, 289f, 290f, 291f, 292f, 293f, 294f, 295f, 296f, 297f, 298f, 299f, 300f, 301f, 302f, 303f, 304f, 305f, 306f, 307f, 308f, 309f, 310f, 311f, 312f, 313f, 314f, 315f, 316f, 317f, 318f, 319f, 320f, 321f, 322f, 323f, 324f, 325f, 326f, 327f, 328f, 329f, 330f, 331f, 332f, 333f, 334f, 335f, 336f, 337f, 338f, 339f, 340f, 341f, 342f, 343f, 344f, 345f, 346f, 347f, 348f, 349f, 350f, 351f, 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1014f, 1015f, 1016f, 1017f, 1018f, 1019f, 1020f, 1021f, 1022f, 1023f, 1024f, 1025f, 1026f, 1027f, 1028f, 1029f, 1030f, 1031f, 1032f, 1033f, 1034f, 1035f, 1036f, 1037f, 1038f, 1039f, 1040f, 1041f, 1042f, 1043f, 1044f, 1045f, 1046f, 1047f, 1048f, 1049f, 1050f, 1051f, 1052f, 1053f, 1054f, 1055f, 1056f, 1057f, 1058f, 1059f, 1060f, 1061f, 1062f, 1063f, 1064f, 1065f, 1066f, 1067f, 1068f, 1069f, 1070f, 1071f, 1072f, 1073f, 1074f, 1075f, 1076f, 1077f, 1078f, 1079f, 1080f, 1081f, 1082f, 1083f, 1084f, 1085f, 1086f, 1087f, 1088f, 1089f, 1090f, 1091f, 1092f, 1093f, 1094f, 1095f, 1096f, 1097f, 1098f, 1099f, 1100f, 1101f, 1102f, 1103f, 1104f, 1105f, 1106f, 1107f, 1108f, 1109f, 1110f, 1111f, 1112f, 1113f, 1114f, 1115f, 1116f, 1117f, 1118f, 1119f, 1120f, 1121f, 1122f, 1123f, 1124f, 1125f, 1126f, 1127f, 1128f, 1129f, 1130f, 1131f, 1132f, 1133f, 1134f, 1135f, 1136f, 1137f, 1138f, 1139f, 1140f, 1141f, 1142f, 1143f, 1144f, 1145f, 1146f, 1147f, 1148f, 1149f, 1150f, 1151f, 1152f, 1153f, 1154f, 1155f, 1156f, 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How it always ends in tears

The reigns of England football managers have invariably ended in acrimony. Phil Shaw takes the history lesson



WALTER WINTERBOTTOM

1946-63

IN THE modern era, Winterbottom's reign would surely not have survived England's World Cup defeat by the United States in 1950. The one-time teacher and Manchester United half-back stayed a further 13 years, doubling as FA director of coaching. However, he merely coached and organised a side picked by a selection committee containing club chairmen and FA backwoodsmen. Some players felt he was too academic and complained about 90-minute team talks (although Ron Greenwood described him as the "instigator of all new ideas in English football"). Press relations were increasingly poor and he stepped down after a spate of "Winterbottom must go" headlines.

RECORD: Played 139, won 78, drawn 33, lost 28
World Cup 1950 (Brazil): England eliminated in group stage.
World Cup 1954 (Switzerland): England knocked out by Uruguay in the quarter-finals.
World Cup 1958 (Sweden): England eliminated after losing a play-off game to the Soviet Union.
World Cup 1962 (Chile): England beaten by eventual winners Brazil in the quarter-finals.



SIR ALF RAMSEY

1963-74

THE MANAGER who delivered England the Jules Rimet Trophy was dismissed after eight years of relative failure in its aftermath. Ramsey was rarely at ease with the media, famously rebuffing two reporters who asked how he felt the day after the triumph over West Germany: "Gentlemen, this is my day off." The single-mindedness which initially served the team well became perceived as aloofness and intransigence - "We have nothing to learn from Brazil," he remarked in 1970 - while his teams were increasingly condemned as dull and negative. Press clamour for his demise following failure to qualify for the '74 World Cup was satisfied when the FA sacked him on May Day.

P113, W69, D27, L17
World Cup 1966 (England): England win the World Cup, beating West Germany at Wembley 4-2 after extra time.
European Championship 1968 (Italy): England are knocked out by Yugoslavia at the semi-final stage, but win the third place play-off match 2-0 against the Soviet Union.
World Cup 1970 (Mexico): England knocked out 3-2 by Germany in the quarter-finals.
 After failing to qualify for the 1974 World Cup finals in Germany, Ramsey is replaced.



DON REVIE

1974-77

"DON READIES", as his alleged motivation by money led to his being dubbed at Leeds, enjoyed a brief honeymoon with a media grateful for a fresh face after Ramsey's reign. But mutual suspicion and hostility, which simmered during a shambolic attempt to reach the 1978 World Cup finals, boiled over when it emerged that Revie had fixed himself up with a lucrative deal in Dubai and given the exclusive on his defection to one newspaper (reportedly for £35,000). Revie, who even tried to negotiate a pay-off from the England job on the grounds that the pressure on himself and his family had become intolerable, had an FA ban slapped on him, while one tabloid claimed he had fixed matches.

P29, W14, D8, L7
 Failed to qualify for 1978 World Cup finals.



RON GREENWOOD

1977-82

A FRIEND of Winterbottom's, Greenwood also provided three key men to Ramsey's world-beating line-up. Despite being pushed "upstairs" at West Ham, he was seen as having the necessary dignity (vital after the Revie saga) and an advocate of a more "Continental" style by an FA international committee which was under pressure to appoint Brian Clough. Led England to European Championship finals in 1980, with modest results, while the side started well at the ensuing World Cup before fading out. Media criticism was not as strident as that of his successors, yet "sickening" enough in 1981 for him to tell the players he was quitting. They persuaded him to stay and he retired a year later.

P55, W33, D12, L10
European Championship (Italy) 1980: England knocked out at the group stage.
World Cup 1982 (Spain): England eliminated at the second stage.



BOBBY ROBSON

1982-90

FOR A genial man who had two respectable tilts at the World Cup, Robson endured periods of personalised vilification from press and public alike. Jimmy Greaves, an ex-England colleague, suggested that the "no-holds barred attack" by the tabloids "could not have been more vicious if he'd been a mass murderer". Brian Clough and even Alf Ramsey joined in, but Robson persevered and built a team around the talents of Lineker, Pearce, Beardsley, Waddle et al. On the eve of Italia 90, lurid reports detailing alleged sexual peccadilloes prompted him to announce he would leave after the finals. "It's a disgrace," he said. "They're trying to sell papers off my back by being sensational."

P95, W47, D29, L19
World Cup 1986 (Mexico): defeated against Argentina ('the hand of God').
European Championship 1988 (Germany): Knocked out in group stages.
World Cup 1990 (Italy): Knocked out on penalties against Germany in the semi-finals, and England lose their third-place play-off match against Italy.



GRAHAM TAYLOR

1990-94

TAYLOR GREW up around football journalists, his father being a long-serving scribe, and while with Aston Villa he built a reputation for being articulate, affable and eminently quotable, if a little verbose. However, attributes viewed as pluses in the Midlands were seen as irritants by the London-based correspondents covering England, especially after he fell out with Gary Lineker during the Euro 92 fiasco. One paper memorably nicknamed him "The Turnip", and the negative image was compounded by an expletive-ridden TV documentary. His press conferences turned into confrontations and it was a tormented figure who resigned after England missed out on USA 94.

P38, W18, D13, L7
European Championship 1992 (Sweden): Knocked out in round one.
 Failed to qualify for 1994 World Cup finals.



TERRY VENABLES

1994-96

BY COMPARISON with his predecessors, and with Hoddle, Venables was a consummate media manipulator, armed with a ready quip as well as the requisite tactical knowledge which Taylor's critics argued he lacked. Appointed despite the FA's awareness of his tangled business affairs, he was undone not by bad results or harassment by the red-top papers but by a long-running legal spat with Spurs' owner, Alan Sugar. When the head of the international committee, Noel White, intimated that he did not have the FA's backing over his determination to pursue litigation, Venables announced he would go after Euro 96. Ironically, like Robson he then took England desperately close to a final.

P23, W12, D9, L2
European Championship finals 1996 (England): Defeated on penalties against Germany in semi-finals.



GLENN HODDLE

1996-??

WHEN HODDLE'S boots did the talking, few players were more articulate. But, like Taylor, his reign has foundered as much as by his foot-in-mouth utterances as by patchy performances. Though his stock was high after England reached France 98, they fared no better in the finals than Paraguay or Chile. He claimed they would have won the World Cup had they beaten Argentina, and that his one mistake was not taking faith-healer Eileen Drewery. The media came to disdain this inability to admit errors (he also said Michael Owen was "not a natural finisher"), as well as what they saw as overbearing self-importance and pretentious theorising about karma and reincarnation.

W17, D4, L7
World Cup finals 1998 (France): Defeated on penalties against Argentina in second round.
 Statistics include defeats on penalties.

IAAF's world indoor plan under attack

ATHLETICS

THE Great Britain selectors yesterday named the first 13 athletes to compete in the World Indoor Championships in Maebashi, Japan, on 5 to 7 March. But the UK performance director, Max Jones, said he is unhappy that tough qualification criteria in the field events will deny up-and-coming athletes the chance to gain valuable experience. "The International Amateur Athletic Federation... want straight finals in the field events with just eight or nine athletes competing. I think it's a flawed plan," he said.

Substantial additions to the team are likely to be made at the final selection meeting on 24 February. The former Olympic decathlon champion Daley Thompson heads a group of "golden oldies" who are set to make a track comeback in a 60m sprint challenge at the Bupa Indoor Grand Prix at Birmingham on 14 February. GB squad, Digest, page 23

Ronaldo thinking of home

BRAZIL

RONALDO WANTS to return home when he finishes playing for his Italian club, Internazionale, the Brazilian World Cup striker said in Barcelona last night.

"When I finish my contract with Inter I will return to Brazil because I have already played five years in Europe," Ronaldo said. He was in Barcelona for the presentation of the Fifa World Player of the Year award, an accolade he won in 1996 and 1997.

Ronaldo has a five-year contract with Inter, which ends in 2002. He previously played a season in Spain for Barcelona and before that had two campaigns with the Dutch club, PSV Eindhoven.

The boy from Rio's slums has found homesickness a problem during his time in Europe. He was frequently criticised during his spell at Barcelona for regular trips back to Brazil, most notably for the Rio carnival, returning



AROUND THE WORLD
 EDITED BY
 RUPERT METCALF

jet-lagged and unable to give his best in subsequent games.

This season Ronaldo has also struggled with injuries, particularly to his knees. "I suffered a little after the World Cup and I'm still suffering but I think I will return to playing like I did before," he said.

Ronaldo will be back in the Catalan capital later this year - but it may be against his wishes. Barcelona are due to face Brazil in their Nou Camp stadium on 28 April 28 part of their centenary celebrations. While Barcelona are high-

ly delighted to be playing the match, Brazil will play it after being pressured to do so by their sponsors, Nike. The American sportswear company are also the sponsors of Barcelona.

Brazil's coach, Wanderley Luxemburgo, sounded less than enthusiastic about the game last week. "I don't like playing against club sides, but this match was imposed upon us by Nike," he said.

It is not the first time that Nike's relationship with Brazil has caused waves. There was widespread speculation last July that the company had put pressure on the Brazilian team management to play an unwell Ronaldo in the World Cup final against France, but the allegation was strongly denied by Nike officials.

MEXICO

FOURTEEN PLAYERS were sent off in eight games on Sunday in some stormy Mexican League action.

Five players, including the Mexican international Luis Hernandez, were dismissed as UNL, better known as Tigres, beat eight-man Morelia 3-2 away from home.

FRANCE

THE CANNES goalkeeper, Sebastien Chabbert, was under observation in hospital yesterday after being struck on the head by a missile thrown from the crowd during Saturday's French Second Division derby game with Nice.

The match was abandoned with Nice winning 1-0 after Chabbert was felled by the object hurled from the visitors' section full of Nice fans. As he lay on the ground clutching his head a firework exploded next to him. He suffered concussion and loss of memory.

Missiles thrown on to the pitch included two pairs of scissors, iron bars, stones, fireworks, two mobile telephones and a solid lead ball used in the game of petanque.

Police probe assault on Chester's physio

BASKETBALL

BY RICHARD TAYLOR

TEMPERS ARE still inflamed after Sunday's abandonment of the Budweiser League game between Chester Jets and Derby Storm, which was halted after 28 seconds following a players' brawl.

Chester police confirmed that they are investigating an alleged assault on the Jets' physiotherapist, Alison Troughtman, while the club's chairman demanded a lifetime ban on Derby's England international Yorkie Williams.

A police spokesman said: "The physio was apparently assaulted and taken to hospital with a suspected broken jaw, but later released." An allegation of assault against her will be investigated, but no interviews have yet taken place.

The Basketball League and English Basketball Association are holding an inquiry to consider the worst outbreak of violence in the history of senior National League basketball in England, which began in 1972. The League have asked Derby for their video of the incident.

Mauresmo says Hingis is 'stupid'

TENNIS

AMELIE MAURESMO has described Martina Hingis as "stupid" for making remarks about her build. The muscular Frenchwoman beat world No 1 Lindsay Davenport in the semi-finals in Melbourne last week before losing to Hingis in the final.

Remarks by Davenport and Hingis that the 19-year-old "played like a man" led to much coverage, particularly after the French player announced that she was a lesbian. But Davenport later said she admired the teenager and insisted she had been referring to Mauresmo's style of play. Mauresmo said that Hingis' reported comments were an "unpleasant joke".

Hingis reportedly said that Mauresmo was "half a man", comments she later denied. But Mauresmo said: "Perhaps she just said it for a laugh, without thinking, but the next day she wasn't very clear either in saying that I played like a man. It was stupid of her."

هكذا من النقص



SPORT

SUPER ELWAY P19 • HILL TAKES CENTRE STAGE P20



Football: England coach threatens to sue over damaging interview as senior FA officials hold talks about his future

Hoddle's rearguard action

BY GLENN MOORE

APPROPRIATELY ENOUGH, Glenn Hoddle's future as coach to the England team came down last night to a matter of belief. Did the Football Association believe him or a journalist? If they had faith in him they would back him, if not they would sack him.

There ought not to have been a choice. While the journalist involved, Matt Dickinson of *The Times*, is an honourable reporter it would be a bold step for the FA to back his word against that of their national coach.

However, the situation was not so clear cut. Hoddle's history of dissembling, and the way he has tackled the accusation that he said people with disabilities were being punished for misdemeanours in a past life, gave cause for thought to the five senior FA figures who were to determine his fate.

The five men concerned were Geoff Thompson (the acting chairman), David Davies (the acting chief executive), Noel White (Liverpool director and chairman of the FA's international committee), David Richards (chairman of Sheffield Wednesday) and David Sheepshanks (chairman of Ipswich). Davies said last night that their decision was expected by lunchtime today.

The need for urgency was underlined when Davies and Hoddle pulled out of a visit to Barcelona last night for the Fifa World Player of the Year ceremony. This would have been an excellent opportunity to continue building bridges in the wake of the cash-for-votes scandal and to spread the word about the 2006 World Cup bid. In the event the FA was not represented.

Back in London Howard Wilkinson, the FA's technical director and former manager of Leeds, is in line to fill any breach temporarily. If he is called upon, he would then name the England squad for next week's World Cup friendly against France. The squad is due to be announced on Thursday.

The FA would then have to find a long-term replacement – and quickly. The crucial European Championship qualifier against Poland is on 27 March.

The FA know that if they support Hoddle they will have to withstand a storm of protest from disabled groups, politicians and people within the game. The affair had developed such momentum that yesterday even the Prime Minister, Tony Blair,



The FA's acting chief executive, David Davies, faces the cameras outside Lancaster Gate in London before yesterday's meeting on Glenn Hoddle's future

Bobby Robson offers to help

BY CLIVE WHITE

BOBBY ROBSON, the former England manager, said last night that providing he could free himself he would be prepared to take temporary charge of the national team should there be a parting of the ways between Glenn Hoddle and the Football Association.

Robson, who stands down as coach of Dutch side PSV Eindhoven at the end of the season when Eric Gerets takes over, is almost alone in regarding the England job as still the most prestigious in the land.

It is amazing that even at 63 years old and after the persecution he suffered at the hands of the media he could still even consider doing it again, even though his eight-year reign from 1982-1990 eventually ended on a triumphant note when he steered England to the semi-finals of Italia 90.

"If I was free and the country was in a spot then, yes, for the short term," he told *The Independent* yesterday from the Netherlands.

"I'm sure if you asked Terry Venables he would also say 'yes'. But there must be lots of other candidates. Not so long ago all of our better young managers wouldn't touch the job with a bargepole."

"I regarded it as the greatest job in football. What I had at Ipswich, in terms of the quality of life [was good], but I gave it all up because that's the way it was in those days. If I'd never taken it I'd have sat back in my rocking chair later on in life and said, 'what a fool I was to turn it down'. I've no regrets. It was a fantastic phase of my life, a great education."

Robson remains the most successful Englishman ever to manage abroad but believes that a younger man should have the job and was interested to know where Kevin Keegan stood among the list of contenders. When told he himself was 50-1 in the betting to take over should Hoddle's tenure come to an end, he replied: "Fifty-to-one! I'm disappointed."

had become involved, saying Hoddle should go if he had been correctly quoted in *The Times*. This is the crux of the matter and in a series of television interviews yesterday Hoddle's defence to the charge that he had gratuitously offended people with disabilities hardened to one of denial. Having earlier claimed his words were "misinterpreted" and "misinterpreted", this time he insisted: "It is absolute nonsense that I said these people are being punished for their sins in other lifetimes. That is just not what I said."

He added that he had "never, ever believed" it and that it "could not be further from the truth". Dennis Roach, his agent, later announced that Hoddle was considering issuing

a writ. *The Times*, meanwhile, stood by their story.

Hoddle was talking to Sky News in an interview which was given a bizarre twist when it was released in segments while still being conducted – because Hoddle had refused to speak "live". He also said he was, in turns, saddened, disappointed, frustrated, seething but not angry, and devastated. He was "sorry", but only because people had been upset by the media reaction. Interestingly the interview had been arranged through his advisers, not the FA.

Hoddle has been less than totally honest on occasions in the past. Misleading people about injuries and team selection is standard practice among some managers and he cannot be condemned for that, but there

have been more relevant examples of his being economical with the truth.

He has previously denied making comments about Michael Owen's "off-the-field" activities, only for the journalist involved to produce a tape recording including them. He also revealed incidents in his published World Cup diary which he had categorically denied taking place at the time.

Although Hoddle denied making some of the comments that appeared in *The Times*, he did say similar things in an interview with Radio Five Live last year. It was also pointed out last night that it had taken him two days to deny saying what *The Times* had reported. He also said his "mistake" had been to "let my guard down" in the in-

terview, which suggests he felt he had been drawn into saying something unintended. He is not especially articulate and in the past his clumsiness has led to his saying things he did not mean. For example, his claim that Owen was "not a natural goalscorer" was supposed to be a compliment.

All this adds to the dilemma facing the FA. The key figures were involved in telephone conferences throughout yesterday. In the back of their minds was the knowledge that Hoddle, for all his faults, would not be easy to replace. This is the job that drove Don Revie to the desert, turned Bobby Robson grey and caused Graham Taylor to wake up in the middle of the night with his pyjamas soaked in sweat.

Long-term possibilities included Bryan Robson, Kevin Keegan, Arsène Wenger, Roy Hodgson, Alex Ferguson and Venables. With the Poland match eight weeks away the FA would have to identify the right man, convince him to take the job, then, in most cases, persuade his employers to release him.

It is a tall order and, in the interim, Wilkinson was being lined up. However, Peter Taylor, who has done a decent job with the England Under-21 team, could step up if Wilkinson refuses.

As far as Hoddle was concerned this was academic speculation. "I've not considered resigning," he said, adding that he had received telephone messages of support from England players. "People are going to do this, it is the nature sometimes

of this job. It is not a pleasant experience, but it is one I will learn from. You ask: 'Is it worth the hassle?' My attitude has always been it is a privilege to be manager of England."

"At this moment in time I still feel very strongly I want to lead the team out against France. Some of them have been through this themselves and this might even pull us together even stronger."

This optimism, like so much of Hoddle's character, comes from his faith. As with many men, his greatest strength is also his greatest weakness. It always ends in tears.

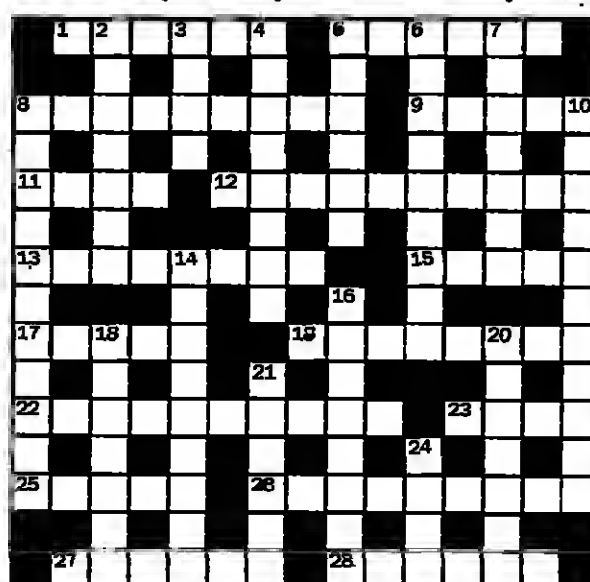
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THE TUESDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3835 Tuesday 2 February

by Aclred

Monday's Solution



SPECTRAL BOUTIQUE
ROULETTE
CANNABIS
VUE
CANNABIS
YORKSHIRE
DETECTIVE
PARIV
AOC
DOUBLE
UNIVERSITY
OCEANIC
BRUTUS
REAFFIRM

- ACROSS**
- Support endless fever shown by combined football teams (6)
 - Reduce sensitivity of far-from-quick space (6)
 - With power, person living in - White House? (9)
 - Regulate river flowing into another in Germany (5)
 - Where you'd see badger fight endlessly? (4)
 - Woman scoundrel backed me, in charge of remedial classes? (10)
 - Irish in back-to-back formation by entrance to water (8)
 - Comfortable place, hot, in French resort (5)
 - Time to close? (5)
 - Place giving apostle

- DOWN**
- Writer to show the way with something illuminating? (4,6)
 - Following one's lines to give satisfaction (4)
 - In refectory eat something, William Butler (5)
 - No grazer could need this to get the answer (9)
 - Piece about editor's place to live (3-3)
 - Always having information, about to go back on one's word (6)
 - Volatile sort of seat in which voter replaces Liberal with judge (7)
 - Good to get free of arrangement of lines (4)

Hartson fined £20,000 by FA

BY NICK HARRIS

JOHN HARTSON was yesterday fined £20,000 and suspended for three games for his training ground attack on Eyal Berkovic in September.

The incident happened during a West Ham training session as Berkovic knelt on the ground after a hard tackle by his then team-mate. Caught on camera, the evidence supported Berkovic's assertion that "if my head had been a ball, it would have been in the top corner of the net".

Hartson, who left Upton Park to become Wimbledon's record signing for £7.5m two weeks ago, was handed his punishment at a hearing of the Football Association's disciplinary committee at Lancaster Gate. He will miss three first-team matches for his new club from 15 February and pay the record-equalling fine after admitting a charge of misconduct. The fine equals those given to Vinnie Jones (then of Wimbledon) for putting his name to a video of vicious tackles, and to Arsenal's Patrick Vieira for an obscene gesture to the Sheffield Wednesday crowd last September.

A spokesman said: "We regard the incident as clearly being within our jurisdiction because John was a professional footballer going about his duties and subject to our rules," he said. Hartson apologised at the FA hearing and the disciplinary committee accepted that he had since made his peace with Berkovic. The Israeli mid-

fielder, who missed a reunion with Hartson when West Ham played Wimbledon last Saturday because of flu, had sent a letter to the committee saying that he and Hartson had settled their differences since the attack.

The committee accepted, the FA spokesman said, that the two players had subsequently gone on to train and play together and that no grudges had been held. West Ham's manager, Harry Redknapp, had already fined his centre-forward the maximum two weeks' wages – about £10,000 – and donated the money to a children's leukaemia charity. Redknapp said last night: "It is a very harsh punishment in my view. I fined John £10,000 after the incident but now they have done this to him."

Hartson's new manager, Joe Kinnear, said: "I need some time to think about this. I didn't expect that." Yesterday's disciplinary panel made its decision after hearing evidence from Hartson, who has 14 days to appeal against the decision. Meanwhile, Liverpool's Rob Jones seems likely to become Redknapp's latest recruit. The former England right-back was in talks with the Hammers over the weekend and is looking at houses in the area before moving. Redknapp will try to agree a fee with Liverpool – he is likely to have to raise his opening offer of £200,000.

City set for £30m cash injection

BY ALAN NIXON

MANCHESTER CITY, for the past few years one of football's poor relations, are on the verge of a £30m cash injection – which could happen this week.

City's manager, Joe Royle, will be given up to £20m to spend on new players, while a further £10m will be invested in club shares. The Second Division side will unveil details after a board meeting on Thursday. The identity of the club's backer is being kept secret. However, it is understood to be an English-based corporation with foreign connections.

Aston Villa's central defender, Ugo Ehiogu, will be out of action for at least a month with a fractured eye socket. He suffered the injury when accidentally kicked by Alan Shearer during Saturday's Premiership match with Newcastle.

Blackburn's French defender Sébastien Perez has returned to his former club, Bastia, on loan until the end of the season. The Wolves striker, Robbie Keane, has been recalled to the Republic of Ireland squad for a friendly against Paraguay on 10 February in Dublin. Alan Kelly, Ian Harte and Lee Carsley are also recalled by the Republic's manager, Mick McCarthy. Squad, Digest, page 23

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TUESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

Bobby Robson offers to help

BY CLIVE WHITE

ROBBIE JOHNSON, the Englishman who has been in charge of the national team since 1994, has a reputation for being a bit of a maverick. He is a former player, a former manager, and a former member of the Football Association's disciplinary committee. He is also a man who has been in charge of the national team since 1994, and he has a reputation for being a bit of a maverick.



David Rawcliffe

One man and his God

Glenn Hoddle, the man who believed too much

None of this, of course, would stand up in a court of law. Glenn Hoddle failed to win the World Cup. He was unable to maintain the customary level of moral support for some of his players (Gazza, Becky, the boy Owen). Unforgivably, he betrayed the confidence of some of them. He left his wife and kids. He was too interested in money. He aired a few theories that appeared to have been borrowed from the lyrics of *Tales from Topographic Oceans*. His team got off to a shoddy start in the qualifying round for Euro 2000. And now the nation appears to have decided, prompted by its Prime Minister, that it has had enough of him.

The tabloids were always going to get him one day. Hoddle had offended too often, by refusing to play the game their way. He had sometimes intentionally misled them, he had often let them see his contempt for them, and he had not given them the unbroken string of victories that would allow them to indulge the unfettered jingoism so pleasing to their circulation departments. But Hoddle was never quite comfortable with the beer-and-bulldog ambience of the Sun Bus, and his unease became his downfall.

Yet it was only by a seeming paradox that the clumsy and unnecessary statement last week of his views on handicapped people should appear in an interview in *The Times*. No paper appears to value football coverage more highly as a circulation weapon, wielded in conjunction with Sky Sport's Premier League contract. *The Sun* probably doesn't know whether to bemoan its own failure to provoke the scoop, or to dance a jig at the prospect of being able to write Hoddle's obituary at last.

Hoddle's words upset many disabled people and their representatives – a perfectly natural reaction. "Glenn Hoddle says that the lame, the blind and the halt have only themselves to blame," they were told. "How do you feel about that?" There could be only one response, and David Blunkett voiced it in unanswerable terms. Hoddle's attempt to suggest that his beliefs were more complex, fell on deafened ears.

It does no good at this stage to suggest that many of those leading the condemnation of Hoddle's views themselves subscribe to a cult whose believers – led by our head of state and our Prime Minister – have no trouble with numinous phenomena, whether they be serial plagues, the parting of seas or tricks with loaves and fishes. Or, indeed, with the basic notion of an afterlife. Hoddle's version of man's relationship with eternity certainly smacks of a shallow immersion in the debris of Sixties spiritualism, but he is hardly alone in that. It may, indeed, simply be a matter of degree. The Right Reverend David Jenkins, the former Bishop of Durham and the Church of England's most celebrated sceptic, acknowledged as much when he deplored the speed with which people are condemned for their beliefs – or for holding beliefs at all.

BY RICHARD WILLIAMS

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Hoddle pilloried

Sir: I see one good result which may come from *l'affaire Hoddle*: it may serve to make an unthinking belief in reincarnation less popular. At present it must be the fastest-spreading religious opinion in this country. But I am less enthusiastic about humbling Hoddle from his job because of his defective theology.

The tabloid gunfire aimed at Hoddle also hits other targets. Are we to understand that no orthodox Hindu or Buddhist is permitted to hold a prominent public post in this country?

The Rev G P BENSON
Barnston, Merseyside

Sir: The idea that sickness and disability are in some way related to sin is very old (see Job in the Bible). But then so is the idea we should punish or pillory those who hold different religious views from ourselves. The question in a civilised society is whether the holding of even offensive religious views merits such treatment. I hope not.

Dr A R CADAMY
Kildwick, West Yorkshire

Sir: Now that the principle is clearly established – public figures who attack disadvantaged groups on the basis of outlandish superstitions should resign – I await with eager anticipation the Prime Minister's calls for the removal of anti-homosexual bishops and former Chief Rabbis from the House of Lords. Perhaps Glenn Hoddle could be appointed to replace them in the transitional chamber.

SIMON CHRISTMAS
Cambridge

Sir: In the light of the furore over Glenn Hoddle's remarks, why aren't we demanding the sacking of other public figures who espouse equally crackpot ideas? I am thinking of the Queen, Tony Blair and a significant number of the ruling classes whose belief in a supernatural father figure, eternal damnation and the immortality of a human soul are, if anything, more frightening than Glenn's homespun philosophy.

LES BEAUMONT
London W13

Sir: Can we hope that Glenn Hoddle will be reincarnated as one of Mary Chippendale's baby chimpanzees?

LESLIE BROWNE
London SW1

Sir: Is it possible that, if I say or do something breathtakingly stupid in this life, I might be reincarnated as the England football coach?

DAVID FULLMAN
Norwich

Sir: Leave poor crass Hoddle alone. If what he believes is true then he will come back as a toad.

O WOOLCOTT
Oxford

Care in crisis

Sir: David Aaronovitch is right to say that the "selflessly excellent" rub alongside the chronically inefficient in our public services ("What's the point of spending a fortune on nurses and teachers?", 28 January). This is certainly true in services for people with learning disabilities.

In residential homes there is an appalling lack of care. It is not unusual for those who are supposed to support people with learning disabilities to spend hours watching television, talking among themselves, or speaking on the telephone. In this culture of laziness and complacency it should not be surprising that abuse often goes undetected.

Is there any good reason why the homes of vulnerable people should not be electronically surveyed? Is there any way other than supervision by closed circuit television that we can ensure that people with a learning disability receive an adequate service in their own homes? There are many problems with privacy and staff feeling uncomfortable but

where is there a real alternative?

The powers of choice and complaint are meaningless unless we can see what is going on in these places. I have worked in the learning disability services since 1994 and know neglect is widespread. CCTV might even allow us to pay a decent wage to those who are doing their job conscientiously.

FRANCIS ELLIOT-WRIGHT
London SE4

Sir: David Aaronovitch was out of date in his comparison of poor ancillary workers with wonderful nurses. Despite the antics of the unions, until Mrs Thatcher introduced "efficiency savings" into the NHS we had a large number of hospitals with highly effective ward teams, including often excellent ancillaries.

Mrs Thatcher privatised ancillary services. The contracts were won by the lowest bidders, who made money by cutting pay. No wonder they appear disaffected.

Many would argue hospitals will never be as effective again until ancillaries are restored to NHS conditions of service and real ward teams are rebuilt.

DAVID DUFFY
Ipswich, Suffolk
The writer was an NHS manager 1963-1992

Bad news: prices up

Sir: Your report "House prices buoyant in key areas" (27 January) applauds house price rises with phrases like "some homeowners enjoying rises" but "a gloomy picture elsewhere". I am sure you would not be writing in such terms about cars or food.

House inflation only benefits estate agents and landowners. Everyone else suffers – first time buyers and those needing to move up the housing chain all see their dream house going out of their reach. It is a prime cause of general inflation, which in turn brings higher interest rates, making mortgages dearer.

DAVID MARTIN
York

Sir: Richard Dawkins of all people should not have to be told that there is a great difference between clones and

But the most serious result, from my perspective as a local councillor grappling with how to accommodate vast numbers of new houses without destroying our beautiful countryside, is that inflation stokes up demand in a never-ending cycle, with everyone jumping on the bandwagon before the next rise, and we end up with an urban sprawl.

DEREK FISHER
Gloucester

Coward's way

Sir: Philip Hoare's paean for the values of Noel Coward (Comment, 1 February) was summed up more than three decades ago in a top newspaper's thundering headline over an editorial on the Chatterley trial: A DECENT RETICENCE. But in reality this is everything that the English do not need.

Since Shakespeare's time we have isolated ourselves from the beauties and terrors of myth and passion; we have covered the rawness of our nature in Prince of Wales check. Coward was right to indicate that an unrestrained peeling-back-to-nature was a

mistake; but his denial of the mythic and ecstatic aspects to human existence reminds me of the king in Euripides' *Bacchae*, whose suppression of the rites of Dionysos drove him mad.

Somehow we need to integrate the mythic and the irrational into our lives. This was one of the things that the playwrights of the Fifties and Sixties were saying: this was the whole ethos of the Sixties – to me a "marvellous party" (yes!) where hierarchy, class distinctions and the urge to control others were jettisoned in favour of love, individuality, discovering common humanity, ending superiority and bossiness, and taking responsibility for one's own life.

After such discovery, the world of the stuff upper lip was about as appealing as a dutiful railway sandwich.

CHRISTOPHER J WALKER
London W14

Adoption 'choice'

Sir: Yasmin Alibhai Brown is disingenuous ("Secrets, lies and the burning need to discuss adoption", 29 January). To give

teenage mothers a real choice about whether to keep their babies or have them adopted, we need to offer them a realistic income upon which they can raise their babies.

The current amount – something like £67 per week – gives teenage mothers a choice to starve their babies (or themselves – lots of research shows that is happening), while going round the bend. Give mothers a proper income – say £200 per week – and then we can talk about choice. It is remarkable how emotionally resilient people can become on an adequate income.

JEAN MOLLOY
London SE13

Sir: You report on an experiment to prevent teenage pregnancies by giving girls a raw egg to look after; thus alerting them to the burdens of parenthood. I find it extraordinary that only girls are mentioned ("Chicken eggs help girls learn about sex", 29 January). Surely, boys, being after all, 50 per cent of the equation, should be equally targeted? It appears that their

responsibilities are not regarded as relevant at all. So much for equal opportunities.

JOAN MOORE
Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail in letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.



Independent Eye No 2: Men of the Irish Republican Army march through the streets of Dublin in 1922 at the beginning of the civil war. This picture is taken from *An Independent Eye: A Century of Photographs* (Sutton Publishing, £20)

Cruel without bias

Sir: Yet again the conventional – or in this case Philip Hensher (Comment, 29 January) – lambaste Bernard Manning, as being unfunny, the cruelest of insults for any comedian.

As a writer researching the social importance of humour I have attended a number of performances by so-called "offensive" comedians such as Chubby Brown, the late Bill Hicks and of course Bernard Manning. What they all have in common, Mr Manning included, is that they, without fail, make their audiences laugh.

Whether or not I like their subject matter, if they, as they often do, reduce those who pay good money to see them to tears of laughter, I can only assume they are funny. Clearly, what is offensive to the average intellectual, politically correct broadsheet columnist is side-splittingly funny to thousands of people who are prepared to buy this brand of humour either in the form of live performances or in recorded material.

People claim Bernard Manning is sexist and racist, but in truth he attacks everyone – his act is that of a true misanthrope. He is every bit as likely to launch into a member of the audience for being pasty-faced or badly dressed as he is for them being black or Asian. Everyone in the audience is a potential target. Maybe the frisson of possibly being singled out for ridicule and momentarily appearing in the spotlight is, along with the joy of watching others squirm, what drives people along in their droves.

Dr CRISPAN BEASLEY
Reading, Berkshire

In praise of fibre

Sir: The scepticism of Barry Groves (letter, 27 January) is both unwarranted and unhelpful. The hypothesis that a high-fibre diet may help reduce the risk of bowel cancer is based on a large body of evidence which was detailed in the Government's Coma report last year.

Individual studies are only useful as pointers and the balance of the data still supports a role for a fibre-rich diet.

Other major studies which are due to report in the near future such as Epic following over 400,000 men and women in nine European countries will provide additional valuable evidence.

The importance of a balanced diet that is rich in fruit, vegetables and cereals in maintaining good health is not in dispute and certainly can do no harm. This remains the position of the American Cancer Society, the Cancer Research Campaign and other European cancer charities. Dr LESLEY WALKER
Head of Science Information
The Cancer Research Campaign
London NW1

Sir: Barry Groves is apparently wrong when he says at the end of his letter "And there is no evidence that fibre reduces the risk of heart disease either".

The authors of a recent paper in the *New England Journal of Medicine* found no evidence that dietary fibre has any influence on the incidence of colorectal cancer, but they end their paper by saying that "there are cogent reasons for increasing fibre intake, particularly the inverse association with coronary heart disease observed in many studies".

It is worth adding that no sophisticated studies are necessary to show that fibre relieves constipation. You just have to try it.

Dr ROGER JAMES
Old Portsmouth, Hampshire

Unattractive

Sir: I agree with Mohamed al-Fayed's statement that Harrods has become a major tourist attraction (Right of Reply, 28 January). In common with many of London's tourist attractions it is overcrowded, tacky, over-priced and avoided by most Londoners. ADAM E B TAYLOR-SMITH
Godalming, Surrey

IN BRIEF

Identical twins ("Dawkins: I'd let daughter be cloned", 30 January). No one chooses to create twins. Moreover, clones will be younger, perhaps much younger, than the person choosing to have a clone made of him- or herself. Whatever the merits or lack of them of human cloning, it is a disservice to the debate to pretend that clones are simply identical twins.

RALPH ESTLING
Ilminster, Somerset

Sir: Michael Butterworth (letter, 1 February) writes of John Bayley's "brave choice". But revision to his book *Iris* arises from the fact that Iris

Murdoch had no choice whether her privacy should be invaded.

Whereas other public figures go to endless trouble to avoid paparazzi intrusion, in Iris's case the informant is right there in the bed beside her recording every grunt and snore. MARGARET MCGOVERN
Oxford

Sir: Under the socialist regimes of eastern Europe the obligatory form of address was "comrade". When do our masters propose to make "mate", now used quite indiscriminately by public servants and others, a statutory requirement – surely a fitting confirmation of their egalitarian principles?

P G ADDISON
Ipswich

The Glenn Hoddle guide to a better life – next time

THANKS to the missionary work of Glenn Hoddle, public interest in reincarnation is being widely aroused again today. But what exactly is it and can it make England more effective in goal-mouth scrambles? Today we bring you a complete pre-match background briefing.

How does reincarnation work, then?

Well, first you die...

Yes...

Then you come back again. What? Back here?

No – somewhere else. Somewhere like Milton Keynes?

If you'd been very bad, yes. So living in Milton Keynes is a punishment for behaving badly in a previous existence, is it?

Yes.

Or is that just a cheap joke at Milton Keynes's expense? And you might just as well have said Bracknell?

Yes.

All right, then, what happens if you live in Milton Keynes and behave badly there? What would happen next? How would you be punished for behaving badly in Milton Keynes?

You'd be reborn in Basingstoke. And if you misbehaved in Basingstoke?

You might come back as the England football manager.

So you think Glenn Hoddle is being punished now for some misdeed in a previous existence?

Not necessarily. But English football fans are being punished.

What for? Glenn Hoddle's misdoings in a previous existence?

Not necessarily. But the continuing frustration of English football followers in Euro 96 and World Cup 98 and every competition you can think of, might be due to England's misdeeds in a previous existence.

The England team is suffering now because of their players' misdeeds in a previous existence?

No. It is much more likely that they are suffering because of the misdeeds of their supporters in a past existence.

Supporters' misbehaviour? That's a bit unfair, isn't it? I mean, if England supporters had been Italian supporters in a previous existence, and had misbehaved as Italian supporters, and then were reincarnated as English supporters, then the present English football scene would be suffering from Italian supporters' misdeeds!

Not necessarily. But the continuing frustration of English football followers in Euro 96 and World Cup 98 and every competition you can think of, might be due to England's misdeeds in a previous existence.

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MILES KINGSTON
What do you think Manchester United's players were in a previous incarnation?

Yes. Well, that's well out of order! Nobody ever said that reincar-

nation was fair. Life isn't fair. Football isn't fair. David Beckham being sent off wasn't fair. Gareth Southgate's penalty wasn't fair. Manchester United's success isn't fair.

What do you think Manchester United's players were in their last incarnation?

English, probably. But they've all come back as foreigners.

Of course, if your theory is true, then Brazilian supporters have all behaved well in a previous life, I suppose.

How come?

Well, Brazil is the most successful football team in history. Therefore their fans are benefiting from a multitude of previous blameless existences.

Perhaps. Also from the fact that their players have good finishing, individual flair and years spent

practising barefoot football on the golden sands of Brazil's beaches.

Ah! So reincarnation isn't responsible for everything!

Certainly not. We all have to make use of the gifts we are given. Except Señor Juan Samaranch, of course. He doesn't make use of his gifts. He just puts them in a glass case and has them valued from time to time.

Do you think Señor Samaranch should resign?

No. I think he should die now and come back as a bed bug.

In Milton Keynes?

No. In the worst bedroom of a very low class one-star hotel in a city which was refused Olympic status by Samaranch himself.

I see. But does anyone actually seriously believe in reincarnation?

Oh yes.

Who?

Glenn Hoddle, and many major Eastern religions. Friedrich Nietzsche also believed in a perpetual cycle of destiny repeating itself which may have been some form of reincarnation, or may be more like listening to *The Archers* omnibus on Sunday morning and suddenly realising you've heard it all before.

Who do you think Nietzsche came back as?

Margaret Thatcher? Margaret Thatcher? Good Lord! How does reincarnation work, then?

Owing to previous misdeeds, this conversation has been doomed to repeat itself for ever. Please go back to the top and start again.

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This healthy rise is not enough to cure our public services

YESTERDAY'S pay awards for nurses and teachers should be a sure-fire vote-winner for any government, a fact that certainly will not have been lost on New Labour. With the public accounts in the black and inflation low, even Whitehall civil servants, less visible and less popular, could yesterday have been promised pay awards at more than the rate of inflation. Any government would welcome the chance of such relatively painless electoral gain.

This package is particularly important to the Government as it will remove some specific obstacles to its election pledges on improving public services. Nurses just entering the service will be given a substantial rise of 12 per cent, bringing their starting pay near the level of newly qualified teachers. The difficulties the NHS experienced this winter were partly due to a chronic shortage of nurses; this rise, along with advertising to encourage people into the profession, will go some way towards rectifying the situation. There is a shortage of suitable prospective headteachers, too; the 9 per cent increase in heads' pay may encourage more teachers to apply for that difficult job of running a school.

But headline rises for some, ameliorating the difficulties of particular sectors, serve only to disguise the reality of the situation overall. Whatever the Downing Street briefing, nurses and teachers will not make up the lost wages that years of phased pay awards have involved. The nurses receiving that attention-grabbing 12 per cent represent only 7 per cent of the profession; this year's rises do not solve at a stroke the problem that nurses and teachers remain comparatively poorly paid. The Government will have to follow this up, year after year, just to keep wages at their present relative worth.

Modern governments are tight-fisted; tax resistance and implicit pay policies mean that those they pay direct will always bear the brunt of their parsimonious rectitude. But this need not mean that public sector pay should fall as far behind as it has. The brightest graduates can earn up to double what teachers start on; no amount of youthful idealism or government advertising will attract them or their peers into schools. Only pay rises will do that, by increasing the attraction of public service.

But as the Prime Minister made clear yesterday, wages are not everything. Many public sector workers have advantages those in the private sector do not long holidays, security of tenure, good pensions. Equally, the physical conditions in wards and classrooms continue to be unacceptable, one reason why many young people prefer private sector jobs. New Labour has admitted as much, earmarking funds to modernise and upgrade buildings.

Although government can and must pay more for public service, it may never be able to match private-sector

wages, as the Cabinet "enforcer" Jack Cunningham has made clear. The Government must therefore be imaginative enough to introduce more selective benefits. Its attempts to introduce incentives for the best and the brightest - more training and promotion opportunities and performance-related pay - are particularly welcome. Such initiatives could go some way to make up for the remaining gap between public and private pay.

The management of schools and hospitals should be given the discretion in recruitment that the private sector takes for granted; for one thing, this could rectify teacher shortages in areas such as London, and in certain skills and subjects. If headteachers and hospital managers wish to pay more to employees particularly deserving of promotion, then they should be able to, as a government Green Paper on education has recognised. After years of restraint, most public servants deserve higher wages. But only more flexibility will ensure that what extra money is available is not squandered.

The honourable fall of a flawed gentleman

WE CAN only guess what motivated a member of the European Parliament, and a Tory at that, to attempt to re-enter Britain carrying drugs and pornography. Perhaps Tom Spencer, Euro-MP for Surrey, gets a thrill from such risks but the blanket condemnation found in much of the press seems as puzzling as Mr Spencer's gamble.

In an age of spin, when politicians and policies are packaged as if they were consumer goods, Mr Spencer's candour since his misdemeanour became public seems endearingly quaint. The usual phoney tabloid outrage over a politician caught in a sex and drugs scandal has been hunted by Mr Spencer's openness, frankness and even hospitality to the press pack outside his doors.

He has displayed none of the arrogance that has

afflicted politicians in similar scandals. He has resigned speedily, admittedly after pressure from his party, but maintaining at least the appearance of decency. In his complex private life, Mr Spencer seems to have behaved with honour towards his family. His wife and step-daughter have always known about his sexual preferences; most people will understand his wish to delay telling his younger daughters about his lifestyle until they are a little older.

Mr Spencer's sins seem rather mild when compared to other disgraced politicians. Recent rule-breaking by both Labour and Conservative members has included taking money to ask questions in Parliament, lying under oath, and failing to register loans. Ultimately, this tale will barely register on the Richter scale of political earthquakes. Although Surrey's MEP will be punished for his sins, he has displayed such dignity since the storm broke that one is left with the thought that perhaps he would make a rather more honourable representative than many of the political colleagues he will soon be leaving behind.



Must we bury eccentricity under a cloak of political correctness?

"OFF WITH his head! Off with her head!" Let us call it Queen of Hearts syndrome after the bloodthirsty playing card monarch from *Alice in Wonderland*. It's an odd condition, this - distantly related to Tourette's - in which the sufferer loudly demands that a judge or a sportsman - or a politician - should lose their job for something completely unrelated to their public function. And over the weekend two new figures, the England football boss Glenn Hoddle and the Tory MEP Tom Spencer, became victims of the rampant Queen of Hearts.

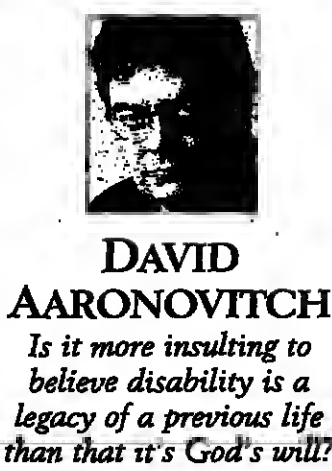
Hoddle first. On Sunday afternoon Margaret Hodge, the minister with responsibility for the disabled, described Hoddle as having uttered sentiments that those with disabilities would find "deeply insulting". In view of his comments, she said, she felt that it was "inappropriate that he should hold that place". Then, yesterday, Tony Blair added that if the reports were accurate Hoddle would find it difficult to stay. Errrr! This is heavy stuff, the Prime Minister calling for a football manager to be sacked. It never happened to Terry Venables, even amid all the allegations about money and dodgy companies.

This isn't just a Labour thing. The Tory MP Peter Bottomley said that Hoddle's remarks were "not Christian, scientific or acceptable" (as if those three things had ever had anything to do with each other). Oddly, the previous month's victim of Queen of Hearts syndrome concurred. Former spin doctor Charlie Whelan argued in *The Observer* that Hoddle should resign because he wouldn't be able to

stand up to all that pressure coming from those in the press calling for him to resign. An ingenious argument, but not, I feel, what Charlie was saying to Geoffrey Robinson all those months. This is what nasty old Glenn is reported to have said. "You and I," he told a journalist, "have been physically given two hands and two legs and half-decent brains. Some people have not been born like that for a reason. The karma is working from another lifetime. It is not only people with disabilities. What you sow, you have to reap. You have to look at things that happened in your life and ask why. It comes around."

That's it, Glenn believes that things happen in this existence as a consequence of events in previous lives. But why, I wonder, one sports writer, "was it necessary to get involved in discussions about the hereafter?" The answer is because Hoddle was asked. What should he have said? "No, I only talk about football." At this rate no one except musicians will dare to appear on *Desert Island Discs*.

I am not big on spiritualism and all that stuff myself. I think that Hoddle suffers from an under-educated intelligence: he's clever, but he has never been trained to use his mind. But, my God, he's far from being alone. One of my best friends is an immensely talented, sensitive and charismatic man. He is also, in religious terms, a kook. He has clapped happy with the happiest of clappers, has hung out with the ultra-liberals at St James's, Piccadilly, and is certain both that he has been reincarnated several times and that he has healing



DAVID AARONOVITCH
Is it more insulting to believe disability is a legacy of a previous life than that it's God's will?

powers. He believes what Hoddle believes. Now go into your local bookshop. The chances are that the "New Age" section is about three or four times as big as that devoted to "Science and Technology". Look at them: books on how spacemen built the pyramids, best-selling historical nonsense by the likes of Graham Hancock and Erich von Däniken, endless bollocks about Templars and Rosicrucians.

On telly there are credulous programmes with titles such as *Strange But True* and *Mysteries With Carol Vorderman* (a show that never explores the true mystery of modern British life - Carol herself) that practically invite viewers to visit their nearest faith healer or spiritualist. In newspapers there are special supplements on the crystal skulls of El Di-

ablo and on how aliens built a giant sculpture on Mars. A complete tribe of astrologers lives off the notion that your star sign affects your destiny. This pick'nix spirituality is the new religion. And why should I be more worried about terms such as pre-existence, rebirth, re-embodiment, palingenesis, metempsychosis, transmigration and reincarnation than I am about transubstantiation, resurrection and virgin birth? At least Hoddle has never forced a teenage girl to have a baby she didn't want or denied contraception to those needing it. Should we now fire all practising Catholics from their jobs? Why is it more insulting to believe that disability is a legacy of a previous life than to believe that it is "God's will"?

And yet Hoddle may well be gone by the time you read this, following the Tory MEP Tom Spencer (caught by customs with a rude video, two joints, a line and a strange costume) into oblivion. Mr Spencer fell on his sword at the invitation of Edward McMillan Scott, the leader of the Tory delegation to the European parliament, after having first had the whip withdrawn. Considering what was found in his suitcase this may be considered double jeopardy.

Mr Spencer had been on a night out in Amsterdam, where a chap had given him a few recreational drugs that he had kept. The video was a gay one. From Churt, in Surrey, Mr Spencer revealed that, though married, he was mostly homosexual. "My wife and I met at university and we discussed my homosexuality long before we got married. Part of our

arrangement was that occasionally it was acknowledged that I would go away for the weekend."

This arrangement suited his wife, apparently, and the two have raised three daughters together. And it seems incredibly sensible and civilised to me. So here, too, I wondered just how much civilisation was threatened by a bloke who swings both ways and smokes a little dope from time to time? More or less than by all those politicians who get legless in the House of Commons bar on a weekday night?

For me the question is not whether Hoddle is right or Spencer behaved well. The question is: can we live with it? That's what tolerance means. If the answer is "no", then we are, by definition, intolerant. Can disabled people cope with Hoddle's views on reincarnation? Can the voters of Surrey deal with a man who occasionally takes drugs? Or shall we demand an end to difference, a uniformity of expression, a burying of eccentricity under a cloak of correctness?

If so, we ought to question our own individualism. As the Hoddle hurls mounted, Roberto Di Matteo, the Chelsea midfielder player, said he felt upset for his blind sister. "I'm angry and disappointed with Glenn. I am very close to my sister. I already feel guilty about her... she has done nothing whatsoever to deserve this or bring it on herself."

"Guilty" is the key word there. A lot of us are aware that we do precious little for the disabled; sacking Glenn is just a painless way of telling ourselves we care. So - off with his head!

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"He's been treated worse than Saddam Hussein."
Eileen Drewery, faith healer, on Glenn Hoddle

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Only the mediocre are always at their best."
Jean Giraudoux, French writer and dramatist

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MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
Comment on the Nato ultimatum given to Serbia and Kosovo

NATO'S CALL for negotiations between Milosevic and the Kosovars is worrisome. What is there to negotiate? Nato should force Serbian forces to withdraw and give the Kosovars a three- to five-year period to recover from Milosevic's depredations and rebuild the democratic institutions he destroyed. During that same period, the United States and its allies should intensify their efforts to promote a democratic transition in Serbia itself.

Then negotiations - between a democratic Serbia and a democratic Kosovo - might have some meaning, and some chance of success.
Washington Post, US

OUR EUROPEAN allies must take over more responsibility. A good start was the willingness of the French to assume leadership of the Nato troops that protect the monitors in Kosovo. That force includes no American ground troops. We

should also draw the Europeans more into the negotiations on the future of Kosovo, so that these issues do not become an entirely American affair. There are greater threats

to our national interests than those posed by the problems of the former Yugoslavia.
The New York Times, US

NOW COMES the familiar

chant of admonition. From US Vice-President Al Gore: "There should be no doubt about our collective resolve in this matter. Nato is prepared to back up its word with action." From Madeleine Albright, US Secretary of State: "The consequences of failure will be swift and serious." Perhaps they mean it this time. Perhaps this time they will use force to bring Mr Milosevic to heel. But, after all the years of empty sermonising, can we really

blame him for doubting it?
The Globe and Mail, Canada

ANY MILITARY action must be followed by a comprehensive political solution to the Kosovo crisis. One possibility is a return to the ethnic Albanians of the sort of autonomy they enjoyed previously. It is short of the independence they seek, but it could be an achievable compromise that halts the bloodshed.
The Age, Australia

PANDORA

SOME OF the biggest players in media advertising were spotted in Miami last weekend. David Mansfield, Capital Radio's chief executive, Andrew Barnes, commercial director for Channel 4, his brother Simon Barnes, a marketing supremo at Associated Newspapers, Nick Milligan, Channel 5's director of sales, and Steve Platt, MD for Carlton sales. Were they swapping corporate secrets? Or discussing takeovers and mergers? No. Despite the high-powered "Five Go Mad in Miami" scenario, Pandora can reveal that they went to watch the Super Bowl.

IT HAS come to Pandora's attention that a bidding war has begun over *Biche*, the first novel of Stephanie Theobald, the journalist who recently demanded to know why the word "lesbian" is banned from women's magazines while men's mags use it for erotic purposes. Theobald is also responsible for the term "bi-try", meaning the sexual advantages of being a lesbian while retaining some mercenary straight behaviour, principally hanging out with white heterosexual males who have the real power. "I suppose my point is that all women - and not just lesbians - are being patronised about what they should and shouldn't know about sex," says Theobald. *Biche* (French for "chick") - being fought over by Penguin and others - includes anecdotes on sex with a sumo wrestler, onanism at a Jean Paul Gaultier party and the secrets of French train toilet cubicles.

WAKE UP to a bright dawn of new jobs. GMTV is today expected to announce who will be the new editor of its breakfast programme. Martin Frizzell, currently chief correspondent, was considered for the post. He is married to the GMTV presenter Fiona Phillips, who is expecting his baby. He also has a child with the GMTV executive Margaret Sawdon - but, despite his popularity in the office, a GMTV source tells Pandora that a surprise announcement is in the pipeline - that GMTV can do without an editor after all. Meanwhile Helen Morton, currently showbiz correspondent, has been filling in as Hollywood reporter, but it is doubtful that she will want to stay in Tinseltown. And a whole range of

celebrity names has been thrown around - probably by their own PRs - with a view to filling in for Ms Phillips.

SPEAKING OF sofa situations, this comfy piece of TV furniture has recently been the subject of some subtle rebranding. When the BBC relaunched its breakfast show, it may decide to create a "soft area". With sofas, Channel 4 News viewers are probably delighted to see Jon Snow perched neatly on what has been referred to as a sofa-like "banquette". God forbid the presenters get too comfortable.

"MY OUTLOOK on life is completely different now. My feelings towards others have been transformed. I don't think I was a bad person before, but my faith in God has made me a more caring, compassionate, patient person." So said Glenn Hoddle in his autobiography, *Spurred to Success*. Of course, this was said 12 years ago, so there has been plenty of time for a reincarnation of the spirit.

READERS OF the Evening Standard's ES magazine will no doubt appreciate its feature writer John Gibb's efforts to go "behind the scenes" to expose casino cheats, but does going behind the scenes include going to the cinema? The report reads remarkably like the soliloquy of Robert De Niro (pictured) in the movie *Casino*. Pandora tried to contact Gibb, only to find that he had left. Perhaps the silver screen has already beckoned.

PASSING HARVEY Nichols, in London's Knightsbridge, on the No 10 bus on Friday, Pandora was horrified to see a beautifully stencilled message on all windows: "Pardon our appearance while we redress our windows." Pardon? Pardon? Is that not the absolute worst lower-middle-class, lounge-room, suburban usage? Are not Harvey Nicks' customers brought up from the cradle to say "I beg your pardon" or "I'm sorry" or "Please excuse me"? There is a shocking lack of standards in Pandora's favourite store.

You can contact Pandora by e-mail: pandora@independent.co.uk



Our phoney sentiments for animals



TERENCE BLACKER

Only when cruelty becomes media-fodder do the British remember that they are animal-lovers

HAVE YOU been to Monkey World yet? The word is that this popular hang-out for primates in Dorsetshire has recently been inundated with visitors eager to see Trudy, the chimpanzee who was so cruelly mistreated by Cruella de Vil of the moment, Mary Clipperton.

The roads leading to Monkey World apparently throng with cars bearing "Save Trudy" stickers. Outside the cage where the little creature now lives with her new family, under the care of her adoptive mother Peggy and alpha male Roger, families gather to gawp and gurgle while journalists of the damp Kleenex school squeeze out the kind of gooey, saccharine prose normally reserved for tragic tug-of-love toddlers.

"Trudy went indoors and dopped in the sawdust and the air from the central heating vents sent a sleepy warmth swirling around her," went one account. "Peggy nudged her until her tired little head fell comfortably against her chest. Roger looked down from his perch. His family was safe." Meanwhile the Daily Mail's "Safe Home for Trudy" petition has proved to be a great hit among readers.

Somehow the news that the HIV

virus originated from one of Trudy's distant cousins in west Africa, once hunted and eaten as bush meat, has pointed up the absurdity of our new phoney sentimentality towards animals. The same type of family punter who visits Monkey World to see primates in cages will also have chorled with pleasure at the sight of dolphins jumping through hoops in some nightmarish pleasure park, and of elephants standing on stools in a circus - perhaps Clipperton's

circus. One of the most successful TV advertisements of recent years has featured chimpanzees whose apparently human grins and grimaces are, in fact, expressions of stress and fear.

It is only when cruelty becomes visible media-fodder that the British remember that they are animal-lovers. So the mistreatment of a donkey in some distant country - beaten, starved, or dropped from the top of a tower for obscure religious reasons - can cause an uproar, while the incomparably more inhumane practice of battery farming in our own country goes unnoticed. After all, we are not obliged to see the means of meat production, merely to benefit from it in our supermarkets. Those enraged by the idea of a fox being hunted and killed are utterly indifferent to the depredation of the countryside through intensive farming, the ever-accelerating decline of mammal, bird and insect species caused by the grubbing of hedgerows by agribusiness and subsidy-crazed farmers. On the whole, we prefer to be concerned about a little wounded hedgehog that plucks the heartstrings of millions of viewers on one of *Roll Harris's* vet shows.

But there's something particularly unnerving and creepy about contemporary attitudes to the great apes with whom, as we are constantly reminded, we share all but 2 per cent of our genetic make-up.

Thanks to the efforts of evolutionary scientists, we have begun to see chimpanzees, bonobos, gorillas and orang-utans as honorary humans, uncontaminated by civilisation - a late-20th-century version of Jean-Jacques Rousseau's noble savage. There are earnest campaigns to grant the upper primates the same moral rights under law as human beings. In various American universities, academics bully less chimpanzees into some form of communication that is recognisable to *Homo sapiens*.

Of course, the connections may well be there. One study, reported in Robert Wright's *The Moral Animal*, suggested that promiscuity in human females falls somewhere between that of chimpanzees and gorillas: the tendency of women visiting a singles bar around the time of ovulation to wear more make-up and jewellery than at other times is the equivalent of the wild genital display of female chimps.

Doubtless, there are those who

will see the astonishing raucousness of bonobos, or pygmy chimps, who use casual and random sex as a form of social bonding, as justifying similar behaviour in the human world.

But, together, evolutionary theory and the proliferation of wildlife programmes seem to have distorted our view of the natural world. We are not as other animals. On the whole, we do not kill younger members of our social groupings if they are sired by rival males, as gorillas do sometimes; nor do we hunt down members of these species to our own in the way that chimpanzees do to colobus monkeys.

Those of us who have been lucky enough to see upper primates in the wild are left in no doubt of the vast gap represented by that small genetic difference. In fact, when I saw a group of gorillas, habituated to the presence of humans, in the Virunga mountains of what was then Zaire, it was the behaviour of the human tourists, posing in front of the great silverback as if she were a guard outside Buckingham Palace, that seemed odd.

Even there, a process of domestication, of tamedification, seemed to be taking effect.

Mr Hague has a message but no one is listening



ANNE MCELVOY

I sense among right wing Tories a death-wish; some will vote Labour at the next election

THAT WILLIAM Hague, he's useless. Good for nothing. Can't remember a single thing he's said. What do they stand for, these Tories? Bring back Maggie. Or Michael Portillo. He's nicer than we thought, isn't he? Quite handsome. Did you see him on that programme talking about his dad and the Spanish Revolution? Touching. Funny he never mentioned it all these years. Or maybe that Ken Clarke would be better. Got the common touch, you see. Not like whatshisname.

On the inadequacies of Mr Hague, the nation is united. He confronts the most absurd government in history - soft, strong and, at this rate, very, very, long. New Labour sucks up other people's ideas promiscuously and turns them into presentational triumphs. Mr Hague's shadow front bench is so motley, ill-orchestrated and jarringly arrogant that it serves as a weekly reminder of why exactly so many swing voters decided they preferred that nice Mr Blair. His own party members, we revealed on Saturday, don't recognise the Shadow Cabinet. Lucky them.

All of this may, however, be dealable with in the fullness of time when it becomes clear that not all of New Labour's promises to create the promised land will be made good. But Mr Hague has a serious problem that may finish him off long before New Labour starts to falter. He is the victim of rank impossibilism among his prominent supporters and, in particular, the Tory press.

The politics of the impossible have a long history in the Conservative Party. Enoch Powell was their most sedulous practitioner. The net effect is to split the party - often among absurd lines: Powell struck up the race row at a time when immigration was in fact decreasing.

Margaret Thatcher exploited the irrational streak by building herself up as a goddess whose will none dared brook, using her diva-like powers to subjugate internal revolt. Even that failed, in the end.

John Major could not cope with this camp and faintly hysterical tendency among his colleagues - an atmosphere extravagantly captured by John Redwood's *emancipator*, Hywel Williams, in his demolition of the Major government, *Gully Men*. Mr Williams is a witty and unimpeachable. But to an outsider, the self-indulgence with which the Eurosceptics helped destroy the Major government is not easily explicable. Didn't they know that Labour was more, not less, likely to take Britain deeper into European institutions?

Even today, I sense among right-wing Tories a kind of death wish. I can't avoid the suspicion that some of them will vote Labour just to finish off Mr Hague at the next election. It is a kind of madness: a glorious, manic defeatism. Today's Tory impossibilists have discovered the joys

of sado-masochism, which they practise against the party they are supposed to support.

Mr Blair's official spokesman has been complaining that the press is not entirely on message, what with its having the nerve to report things he did not tell it to. But it is the Tories who have the real media nightmare. Not even "their" newspapers offer any succour. Hague received only belated and lukewarm support for sacking Lord Cranborne, after the peer's gross disloyalty.

At a dinner for Mr Hague, I sat next to an old colleague, a politically influential figure at *The Daily Telegraph*. A fervent Eurosceptic, he asked the Tory leader whether the wording of a particular passage could be taken to mean that Mr Hague wanted to renegotiate the Maastricht or Amsterdam Treaties. No, replied Mr Hague: that wasn't on the cards at all. My neighbour pressed on: surely renegotiation ought to be a Tory option? No, repeated Mr Hague (and now I paraphrase just a bit), the damn treaties were signed, and under Conservative governments at that, so we just have to live with them.

The disappointment from my old friend was palpable. He kept worrying at the precise phrasing for some time. Mr Hague still gave no satisfaction. A frustrated descendant. Poor man: he can't please the Eurosophes who want to join a single currency the day before yesterday. But he also can't please those who want him to conduct a jihad against the EU and all its works.

Two many influential Tory voices want Mr Hague to do several impossible things before breakfast: get out of the European Union, rule out the single currency in perpetuity, oppose the Northern Ireland peace process. That is before you get



Mr Hague is finding his party hard to please Martin Godwin

to the family fundamentalists who want non-married couples penalised through the tax system, a return to stigmatising single mothers and a bit of ritual gay-bashing.

Impossibilism is increasingly displayed by the Tory Eurosophes, who are behaving as if there were already a breakaway party without having the nerve to get off their back benches and found one. "Any identity of views between me and the Conservative Party is entirely coincidental", announced one of their number recently. In which case, what is he doing occupying a Tory seat?

The management of such irritations is, of course, what a leader is there to do. But a party can be led only if it wants to be led. If it has decided to run amok then he cannot stop it. But he can stop conning in his own misfortune.

His inner team is young, wonkish and very male, lacking in experience and worldliness. It would not be a bad idea for Mr Hague to spend at least a little time listening to some of the old warhorses.

Second, failing to engage in a debate about political ideas, lest Labour steal those ideas, can't be sustained. The Tories must give the public something to talk about. Third, the embarrassing and unfocused expeditions into nationalist territory, and the blather about Britishness, must be checked. A wise leader knows when to turn back.

Mr Hague is an eloquent defender of the free market, a subject on which the Government is ambiguous. His concerns about democratic accountability, at Westminster and in Europe, are justified. He has assumed an admirably libertarian stance on social issues and has no truck with the murmured radicalism that has for long been part of his party. He has always been more liberal than his party on the gay age of consent. A true meritocrat, he is unsullied by the poisonous snobbery that has long been around in the Tory Party.

Hague does have a message worth hearing. Now he must find the words to say it and the mountain-top to shout it from.

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Some rules for a society of equals



JONATHAN WOLFF

From a lecture delivered by the reader in philosophy at University College, London

IN 1929, R.H. Tawney gave the fourth *Hayley Stewart Lectures*, which were subsequently published in 1931 under the title *Equality*. Tawney's general theme was that Britain had pretty much burnt itself out as a major industrial force, by this time, and that hope for the future depended not so much on the improvements of techniques of production, as on a reconsideration of why exactly we are producing things in the first place. Tawney is describing a society which, he obviously thinks, is manifestly unequal in many ways. What, in detail, is the remedy for this?

Perhaps Tawney's real view is that while equality of wealth is very important, it is not the most important thing. I take Tawney to mean that we can put goods into at least two classes. In one class are those where, if one person is to have more, than at least one other must have less.

In the other category of goods are those where at least some can have more without anyone ending up with less. At this stage Tawney gives no examples, but consider the good of "a feeling of security".

If a neighbourhood feels safe, then someone moving in to that neighbourhood may benefit from an increased sense of security without anyone else suffering a cost of any sort. There is only gain.

This dual concern is a constant theme in egalitarian thought, certainly up to Bernard Williams's classic paper *The Idea of Equality* (1982). Williams argues for the egalitarian view of material distribution, "each according to their need", on the grounds that other policies are insufficiently governed by reason and are thus irrational.

This argument was countered with great force by the libertarian philosopher Robert Nozick. Nozick argued that egalitarian theories of distributive justice proceed as if goods fell to earth like manna from heaven; as if all consumable products existed in a "big social pot" and we should sit there waiting for our share to be allocated to us.

Consider Aesop's fable of the grasshopper and the ants. One fine day in winter, some ants were busy drying their store of corn, which had got rather damp during a long spell of

singing that I hadn't the time. "If you spent the summer singing," replied the ants, "you can't do better than spend the winter dancing." And they chuckled and went on with their work.

We may not all admire the ants' rather sadistic lack of charity here, but it seems very hard to say that the grasshopper has any claim in justice for a share in the ants' product, still less an equal share.

It seems to me that in the last 20 years or so, many theorists and politicians have become obsessed with the sort of issues that come to the fore in thinking about this fable.

Although he may not wish to put it exactly in these terms himself, Ronald Dworkin's position is that the requirement of egalitarian justice is to even up fortune and misfortune that are the result of good and bad luck, but not to even up fortune and misfortune that are the result of good and bad choices.

On to put this proposition in a slightly different way, it is a requirement of egalitarian justice that undeserved (and only undeserved) disadvantage should be rectified. This sorts out the ants and

the grasshopper nicely. The grasshopper is starving because of her bad choice of singing rather than working over the summer. Had she failed to work because she didn't have the ability to, or had the ability, but no access to land, the case would be very different. But the ants would have no obligation to, as Dworkin puts it, "subsidise her choices".

What we should appreciate, though, is how such a view would be applied in practice. You will be entitled to welfare benefits only if you can show that you lack the opportunities that others have had, this, after all, is what makes the difference in the cases where we think the grasshopper is, and is not, entitled to support from the ants.

One thing that is remarkable about this is that such highly conditional systems of benefit were once considered right-wing policies. My own view is that contemporary egalitarians have forgotten half of Tawney's teachings. Conditional benefits can create social division and humiliation. A society of equals would have less inquisitive welfare policies.

Philip Mason

PHILIP MASON will be remembered first and foremost as a writer of history, not of the exhaustively researched, academic kind addressed to fellow specialists, but sound, well-researched, worldly-wise history, beautifully written and effortlessly read, such as appeals to people of experience in every walk of life. Less well-known, but no less important, was his career as an outstandingly able member of the Indian Civil Service during the 30 years leading up to Indian independence, and also his pioneering work in promoting the study of racial and minority problems as the founding director of the Institute of Race Relations.

Mason was born in 1906, the son of a country doctor in the Derbyshire hills, who sent him to Sedburgh School and on to Balliol College, Oxford, where he took a first class degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics. He joined the Indian Civil Service in 1933, and served successively as Assistant Magistrate in the United Provinces, Under-Secretary in the War Department, Deputy Commissioner in the Himalayan district of Garhwal – a remote, sub-Himalayan district of more than 5,000 square miles – Deputy Secretary in the Defence and War Department, Secretary to the Chiefs of Staff Committee and finally as Joint Secretary to the War Department, when his highly promising career was ended by Indian independence.

During the war years he had worked closely with Wavell and later with Mountbatten, and there could surely have been a continuing future for him in some other part of the Commonwealth or else in the rapidly expanding field of diplomacy, had he chosen to go that way. Instead, he decided for early retirement with his wife and four children to a small holding in the west of England, where they hoped, with the help of his ready pen, to make ends meet.

It was a gamble and it did not work. The books came – seven novels and two volumes of *The Men Who Ruled India* (as *The Founders* and *The Guardians* were called when reprinted as one volume in 1985), about the major figures of the Indian Civil Service, all published under the pen name of Philip Woodruff be-

tween 1945 and 1954. But the financial return did not meet the needs of a family of six, and in 1952 he found part-time employment at the Royal Institute of International Affairs as Director of Studies in the newly established field of Race Relations.

It became his business both to undertake research himself and also to seek out, and guide towards publication, scholarly work in a variety of disciplines which had a bearing on racial problems. For his own first study he chose Southern Rhodesia, which was just then entering upon a highly controversial federation with Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland. In *The Birth of a Dilemma* (1958)

His autobiography breathes the romance of empire – long days in the saddle and long evenings by the camp fire

he presented brilliantly the predicaments involved in the creation of a colony of settlement in a land already well occupied by indigenous populations. The successor volume called *The Two Nations* he left to a younger colleague, but himself contributed the third and most contemporary, *The Year of Decision* (1960).

Meanwhile, in London his post at Chatham House was burgeoning into the directorship of an independent Institute of Race Relations, for which he had not only to devise the programme but also to find the supporting funds. He still managed to have long weekends at home in the country for reading and writing, but his mid-weeks were busy with people.

A great believer in personal visits, he became a well-known figure in the offices of the international mining, banking and trading companies in the City of London and in those of the great charitable foundations. And he



Mason and his wife, Mary, at Lansdowne in Garhwal, in the Himalayan foothills, where he was Deputy Commissioner, 1937

was to be seen early and late dispensing hospitality, though always with a serious purpose, to guests at the Athenaeum and Travellers' clubs.

The first large project of the new institute was the report *Colour and Citizenship* in 1959 by Jim Rose and Nicholas Deakin. It was prompted by the large migration from the Caribbean and its sometimes ugly repercussions in British politics, and it did much to calm the atmosphere of public debate on British racial issues.

From here Mason's interests moved increasingly towards Latin America, where he set in motion several studies and travelled extensively himself with results that were apparent in *Patterns of Dominance* (1970), the last of his books to be written for the institute before he retired from the directorship in 1968.

He left behind him an apparently flourishing enterprise, with a magnificent record of sponsored publi-

cations and a promising team of six young research fellows to carry things forward. It was a sadness to him to watch his creation disintegrate as it fell victim to the academic disturbances of the next three years.

Nine more books were to follow during the first 15 years of Mason's retirement before blindness drew its curtain on his literary work. They included a short history of the Indian Army, *A Matter of Honour* (1974), a life of Kipling, *The Glass, the Shadow and the Fire* (1975), his Bampton lectures published as *The Dove in Harness* (1976), and two delightful volumes of autobiography, *A Shaft of Sunlight* (1978) and *A Thread of Silk* (1984).

The first concerns his Indian years and breathes the romance of empire (at least for those who ruled), with long days in the saddle and long evenings by the camp fire listening to the varied problems of

his Indian clients. The second, necessarily less glamorous in content, centres on the world of ideas, institutions, and family.

Both are notable for the frank discussion of the part played in his life by his deep commitment to the Christian religion. For most of it he was an Anglo-Catholic, prepared for adult life by the Cowley Fathers, and with a faith much strengthened during a period of temporary blindness caused by a shooting accident in 1941, when his wife Mary read to him daily from the New Testament and they discussed its contents together.

During the institute years he wrote and lectured on Christianity and race. In 1975 he was invited to give the Bampton lectures at Oxford. But as Anglo-Catholics in an ordinary country parish, he and Mary increasingly felt themselves to be schismatics within an already schismatic church. At last in 1978, when

he was 72, they decided to rejoin the mainstream as Roman Catholics.

The decision crystallised during a holiday in Venice, where they had sat together rapt in contemplation of Titian's altarpiece of the Assumption in the church of the Frari and he said to her, "I believe in that picture." Soon after their return home he said to her at breakfast, "Why don't we do it today?" and she replied, "Why not, indeed."

It was a characteristic decision, swiftly taken, even after half a century of searching, and it was adhered to with confidence to the end.

ROLAND OLIVER

Philip Mason, colonial civil servant and writer; born London 19 March 1906; OBE 1942; CBE 1946; Director, Institute of Race Relations 1958-69; FRSL 1976; married 1935 Mary Hayes (two sons, two daughters; died Cambridge 25 January 1999).

Joan Cooper

SOCIAL WORK is everyday news as we approach the Millennium and it must be difficult for people to imagine that it was not always so. Joan Cooper played a leading role in many aspects of it, particularly child care, for 50 years during which major changes took place. Children mattered to her, not only collectively, but as individuals.

She was born at the beginning of the First World War. After high school in Manchester she graduated in arts and history from Manchester University and completed training as a teacher. At 27 she became an Assistant Director of Education in Derbyshire and acquired invaluable experience of local government while the war progressed and post-war Britain began to be planned and achieved.

During the war the fate of Britain's disadvantaged children was seen to be far worse than previously acknowledged. Evacuation revealed acute poverty, significant areas of neglect and the particular plight of children who "were deprived of a normal home life". For them the rigours of the Poor Law – harsh physical conditions, poor staffing ratios and institutional living standards – were still commonplace and even voluntary organisations could be Dickensian in their methods.

Post-war legislation to change Britain's health, education and social services included the Children Act 1948, a landmark in abolishing the Poor Law and introducing a service for "deprived children" which would offer them care and opportunities like other children. The key figures in these changes were the Children's Officers in charge of new Children's Departments in each local authority, with a remit for enthusiasm, pioneering new methods and personal commitment to individual children. Cooper became a Children's Officer in 1948.

She played an important role in the Children's Officers Association, which became an instrument for debate and development with the Home Office, local authorities and other professions. On the association's executive she helped to inaugurate in 1963 what is now the National Children's Bureau, a voluntary organisation attracting all professional groups and interests in children and their needs and promoting research, development and good practice.

In 1965 Cooper became Chief Inspector in the Home Office Children's Department. This meant that, as well as responsibility for inspection of all childcare services, she had power to influence important developments such as the Children and Young Persons Act 1969, which brought a more enlightened attitude to young offenders, and the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970, which centralised social services into one department in each local authority. Alongside a charismatic Under-Secretary, Derek Morrell, she initiated imaginative work through the Community Development Project, the Inspectorate's Development Group which published many innovative reports and documents and the Youth Treatment Centres focused on a sensitive, inter-disciplinary approach to young offenders.

Social Services organisational changes locally and centrally in 1971 took Cooper and the Inspectorate to join the DHSS Social Welfare Service. She had to weld into a united body two professional groups with very different approaches. This mirrored local authorities' struggles in setting up Social Services Departments and required all her experience and skill.

When retirement came in 1976 she undertook a year's training as a mature student at the National Institute for Social Work to prepare for the next stage of her life, and be back in touch with the grass roots. Responsibilities in later years included chairing the Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work, 1984-86, and Parents for Children, 1979-87.

Joan Cooper was a very private person. For her, social work was a moral activity and she fiercely supported its ethical context in a period of considerable turbulence. She had no time for "fudge" and shallow thinking; she looked realities straight in the eye with a remorseless intellectual approach which was sometimes uncomfortable but always valuable. Personally she was kind and concerned for individuals and friends. It is a fitting bottom line that in 1998, at 84, she put energy and ideas into the celebrations involved in the initiative "50 Years of Child Care 1948-1998".

BARBARA KAHAN

Joan Davies Cooper, childcare administrator; born Manchester 12 August 1914; Assistant Director of Education, Derbyshire County Council 1941-48; Children's Officer, East Sussex County Council 1948-65; Vice-President, National Children's Bureau 1964-69; Chief Inspector, Children's Department, Home Office 1965-71; Director, Social Work Service, DHSS 1971-76; Honorary Research Fellow, Sussex University 1979-89; died Brighton 15 January 1999.

Jacques Chailley

JACQUES CHAILLEY was a powerful force in the musical life of France for over half a century, and in several capacities. He will best be remembered outside France as a musicologist of wide sympathies and considerable insight, and inside the "hexagon", as the French like to describe their territory, as a driving force in erecting the academic infrastructure on which the intellectual side of French musical life now rests. Whether his music will get a chance to overshadow those other reputations remains to be seen.

Chailley had a most musical beginning: he was the son of the violinist Marcel Chailley and the pianist Celine Chailley-Richez, who was a pupil of Raoul Pugno and a favourite pianist of the great Romanian composer George Enescu.

Between 1925 and 1927 he took private lessons from Nadia Boulanger, and from 1933 to 1935 he studied composition at the Paris Conservatoire with Henri Busser and, again privately, with Claude Delvincourt. His conducting teachers were no less prominent: first (1935-36), in Amsterdam, Willem Mengelberg and Bruno Walter, and the next year Pierre Monteux. From 1930 to 1936 he was also steeped in the study of musicology. All the while another im-



The language of music

portant element was being fed into his make-up: for four years, from 1932, he attended courses on French medieval literature.

Chailley's teaching career began in the Lycée Pasteur in 1936, though almost as soon he was working at the Sorbonne, gradually moving up through the ranks, becoming a full professor in 1952. In 1947, meanwhile, he was also appointed deputy director of the Paris Conservatoire, where he had been leading the choral classes, and in 1952, boosted

by the successful defence of his thesis *L'Ecole musicale de Saint-Martial de Limoges jusqu'à la fin du XIIe siècle* (one of two theses he presented for his PhD), he founded the Institute of Musicology at the Université de Paris. In 1962 he took over the helm of the Schola Cantorum, founded by Vincent d'Indy and others in 1894 to foster the traditionalist teachings of César Franck – indeed, Chailley was to have little truck with the serialism that became fashionable after the Second World War.

In 1969, in the reforms which followed the student protests the previous year, he became the founder and first director of the Department of Music and Musicology at the Sorbonne (Paris IV, as it was known), retiring in 1979 to pick up his composing pen again. Under his leadership the Sorbonne department became the largest in France, in the number of teachers and students.

Chailley's teaching was accompanied by enthusiastic activity as a writer, both of technical, analytical papers and of books and articles for a wider musical public, on, for example, Bach, Bartók, Debussy, Haydn, Mozart, Rameau, Schubert, Schumann and Wagner. He married his medieval interests with his analytical ability to put analysis itself

under scrutiny in his influential *Traité historique d'analyse musicale* (1951), which is full of novel theoretical insights. Indeed, it was his ability to see music across the ages, as an art in evolution, that marked his most original contributions to scholarship, in such works as *Formation et transformations du langage musical* and *Éléments de philologie musicale*, where he attempted to establish how the language of music had evolved.

The same inclusiveness marked his controversial *Théorie de la resonnance*, which holds that the historical acceptance of intervals as consonant followed the order of the harmonics: octave, fifth, major third, and so on. His *Imbricatio des modes* (1960) again married historical perspective with analytical perception to examine how the Middle Ages had misunderstood the ancient Greeks' "modes", the forerunners of the major and minor keys which emerged with the end of the Renaissance.

But Chailley's wide sympathies made sure his academic pursuits were not the dusty lucubrations of some dry theorist. It was just as natural for him to write a *Petite Histoire de la chanson populaire française* (1942) as to examine *Les Notations musicales nouvelles* (1950).

His own music-making helped keep his feet firmly on the ground, too. In 1933 he founded his first choir, the Psallette Notre-Dame, to revive medieval music, and a group called the Théophilènes to restore Graeco-Latin and medieval theatre to performance, and he directed the choral society Alauda from 1946 to 1961. During the occupation he deployed his abilities to a rather different end: having been captured by the Germans on 18 June 1940 and managing to escape the following day, he joined his old teacher Claude Delvincourt in trying to protect Conservatoire students threatened with deportation; and in 1943, at the suggestion of the conductor Roger Désormières, he joined an underground movement of musicians résistants.

Jacques Chailley's own music reflects his historical sympathies, in a style that owes something to Duruflé, Ravel and Honegger, with a flavouring of Fauré and Francaix. His earliest works are informed with elements of Gregorian chant and French folk music, and though his harmonic language grew more complex as he evolved, modality was a fairly constant feature, bringing a timeless quality to many of his scores. They include two symphonies (1942-47 and 1980), two operas, *Pon*

et la Syrinx (1946) and *Thyl de Floride* (1949-54), an antiquarian ballet, *La Dame à la licorne* ("The Lady with the Unicorn", 1953), to a scenario by Cocteau, and incidental music to four plays. His *Cantique du soleil* (1934) was one of the first works to use the ondes martenot, an instrument to which he returned with panache in his *Suite sans prétention pour Monsieur de Molière* (1955). Among other chamber-music pieces are a string quartet (1936) and a viola sonata (1939-41), and he gave voice in choral works, some of them on a large scale, such as the *Missa solennis* (1947), the *Messe française* (1976) and the oratorio *Casa Dei* (1991).

Little of this generous output has been heard for a while now. But it does not deserve oblivion. Perhaps Chailley's death will provide the stimulus that brings his music back to life.

MARTIN ANDERSON

Jacques Chailley, musicologist, teacher and composer; born Paris 24 March 1910, married 1938 Hélène Pompei (two sons, one daughter); died Montpellier, France 21 January 1999.

Prince Lincoln

THE JAMAICAN singer Prince Lincoln was one of a handful of committed Rastafarian artists responsible for raising the profile of reggae in Europe after moving to London in the late 1970s.

Lincoln Thompson's piercing falsetto and imaginative phrasing gave his work a sense of urgency and conviction, reaching audiences otherwise disinterested in the genre. His enigmatic live performances were captivating and as consistently strong as his recorded work. With his tall frame and long dreadlocks he conveyed an image of strength that supported the gravity of his lyrics. Thompson was also a respected member of London's Rastafarian community, his prominent involvement reflecting his humility and overriding religious commitment. He began his singing career as a

member of the Tartans with Cedric Myton, Devon Russell and Lindburgh "Preps" Lewis. Their 1966 debut, "Dance All Night", recorded at Federal studio, went straight to No 1 in Jamaica, and the anti-rude-boy "What Can I Do" was also highly popular. A move to Treasure Isle resulted in the hit "Far Beyond the Sun" for the producer Duke Reid, and subsequent material was cut for Calton while the group was being managed by Calton's proprietor Ken Lack. By the end of the decade they were at Studio One, Kingston's premier recording facility, creating songs like "School Days" and "Solid as a Rock" which they licensed to the King label in England.

In the early Seventies, Thompson recorded a trio of hit singles as a solo artist at Studio One; the moving "Daughters of Zion" was particularly

strong, and referred to Thompson's Rastafarian faith. Later in the decade, he founded the God Sent label as a vehicle for his work, and began issuing material under the moniker Royal Rasses, using Myton – then leader of the Congos – and the fellow Studio One singer Jennifer Lara for harmonies.

The uplifting "Love the Way it Should Be" was highly popular with the British reggae audience, as was "Kingston 11". Thompson's rendering of the ghetto in which he grew up. The success of these singles led to a contract with Ballistic Records, a UK subsidiary of the United Artists label, about the time Thompson moved to London; the resultant 1979 *Humanity* album is a classic that greatly raised the profile of reggae outside Jamaica, its heavy publicity attracting a new audience to the genre.

A successful tour spread the reggae flame through Europe, while further hits such as "San Salvador" drew attention to a range of social injustices, including the disastrous US foreign policy implemented in the Caribbean and Central America during the Cold War.

As the Rasses' audience grew, Thompson attempted to broaden his focus by drawing from mainstream styles, but the 1980 *Experience* album proved less successful. *Rocks Man Blues* (1981) saw Thompson stretching reggae's boundaries through an inspired collaboration with the jazz/pop singer Joe Jackson, but the collapse of Ballistic coincided with a disillusionment that resulted in a long break from recording.

Though never entirely absent from the music scene, being in-

involved in the reggae musical *Black Heroes in the Hall of Fame*, and with sporadic performances, Prince Lincoln became involved in community ventures and eventually opened the Rasses Fish Market in north London. When he returned to the studio in 1996 to cut the *21st Century* album, his song-writing skills and vocal delivery proved to be undiminished, and the mature and thoughtful release remains popular.

Prince Lincoln was committed to creating music of quality, and his falsetto and understated delivery remain a source of inspiration to upcoming talent, particularly in the UK.

DAVID KATZ

Lincoln Thompson (Prince Lincoln), singer; born Kingston, Jamaica 10 July 1949; married; died London 14 January 1999.



The reggae flame Tim Barrow

Joan Cooper

SOCIAL WORK Joan Cooper was a pioneer in the field of social work in the UK. She was the first woman to be appointed as a social worker in the Home Office, and she was the first woman to be appointed as a social worker in the Ministry of Health. She was also the first woman to be appointed as a social worker in the Ministry of Education. She was a pioneer in the field of social work in the UK, and she was the first woman to be appointed as a social worker in the Home Office, and she was the first woman to be appointed as a social worker in the Ministry of Health. She was also the first woman to be appointed as a social worker in the Ministry of Education. She was a pioneer in the field of social work in the UK, and she was the first woman to be appointed as a social worker in the Home Office, and she was the first woman to be appointed as a social worker in the Ministry of Health. She was also the first woman to be appointed as a social worker in the Ministry of Education.

Dr Jonathan Levi

JONATHAN LEVI was an inspired appointment as physician and gastroenterologist to the Northwick Park Hospital site in 1969. This was an experiment to bring together research and the treatment of common diseases in a new district general hospital and Medical Research Council (MRC)-sponsored Clinical Research Centre (CRC) built on waste land said to have once been Harrow School's golf course. Over the years Levi crossed seamlessly the divide between successful clinical practice and research, making many important scientific contributions to the literature. More recently he was pivotal in another first, the relocation of an entire hospital to the site, namely St Mark's Hospital, renowned for its expertise in large bowel disorders. Born in 1933, the son of David Levi, a distinguished general surgeon, Jon Levi was educated at Westminster School, then studied Medicine at Trinity College, Cambridge, and Westminster Hospital, where he met his future wife, Mary. His credentials were impeccable for establishing a centre of gastroenterology – an MD thesis at the Royal Free Hospital on drug metabolism in the liver guided by Dame Sheila Sherlock, and a period with Sir Francis Avery Jones at the Central Middlesex Hospital. He was appointed to Northwick Park directly from his Nuffield Fellowship at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York, where he worked with Professor Irwin M. Arias. There he discovered two significant Z and Y intracellular liver proteins involved in bile and drug uptake. When Northwick Park opened in 1970, Levi began dismantling the planners' rather dismal scheme for centralised administration. He promulgated a system of speciality-based units directed to the highest standard of patient care and with each speciality enthusiastic to assist each other. He even persuaded the new gastroenterological surgeon to run a mixed medical-surgical ward with synchronous ward rounds – a novel arrangement, but effective. Levi's talent was to translate bedside clinical observation into scientific research. He built up a large NES and private clinical and endoscopic practice for patients with liver and gastrointestinal disorders, using it as a base for his scientific studies, yet worrying over perplexing clinical problems. His avuncular and approachable, and his sartorial elegance, encouraged patient confidence whilst injecting humour into consultations. As a teacher his calls to "educate the young" resounded through the hospital. He established a thriving group of young clinical researchers. The clinical discoveries he inspired and published included the role of an elemental diet in the treatment of acute Crohn's disease. The realisation that a drug commonly used in the therapy of ulcerative colitis caused reversible male infertility brought happiness to many previously childless marriages. There were also original contributions on the small bowel complications of the ubiquitous non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, and the effects of alcohol on red blood cell morphology. Levi's vision and negotiating skills, with the underlying strength of gastroenterology on site, played a crucial role in attracting St Mark's Hospital to the campus when the MRC closed the Clinical Research Centre in 1994. Although Levi was not overtly religious, his Judaism expressed itself in his passionate attachment to his family. He had been close to verifying that David Levi (1742-1801), a printer, scholar and tutor in classical Hebrew to George III, was his direct ancestor. He was a gifted photographer, connoisseur of Oriental carpets and he planted and nurtured a small woodland where he reared sheep. He was forced to retire in October 1997 because of pancreatic cancer. His fascination with craftsmanship had made him a collector of treen (pre-Victorian British turned wooden objects), and a leisurely retirement objective was to write the first colour illustrated book on treen for 25 years. It was a race against time. In three months the scholarly and elegant *Treen for the Table*, was complete; it was published in April 1998. In the same period he supervised the establishment of an art collection to enliven the corridor of his old ward area and was able to attend the opening of the modernised Jonathan Levi Clinical Lecture Theatre at Northwick Park and St Mark's, renamed to recognise his contribution to the growth of the site to a major player in British clinical medicine. **ASLEY PRICE**



Dr A. J. Levi – Polishing Treen, portrait of her father by Sophie Levi

Alfred Jonathan Levi, physician and gastroenterologist, born London 27 July 1933; married 1964 Mary Carmel (one son, three daughters); died London 4 January 1999.

Rear-Admiral Roy Foster-Brown

ROY FOSTER-BROWN is instantly remembered for three things – his long stint as Command Signal Officer to successive Commanders-in-Chief, Western Approaches (1940-44), his command of the 6th Frigate Squadron which eventually found the sunken submarine *Affray* (in 1951), and for his narration of the television series *Sea War* in 1960. He was born Roy Brown 95 years ago and joined the service in 1917 from the RN colleges at Osborne and Dartmouth. His first ship was the new 60-gun cruiser *Diamond* on the China station, an appointment at a distance which might stonish the junior officer of today. He served in submarines before qualifying as a specialist in Signals in 1930. After more sea time in destroyers he became an Lieutenant to Rear-Admiral (later Admiral Sir James) Somerville, then RA destroyers in the Mediterranean, his flag in the light cruiser *Galatea*. In 1933 he and Joan Foster were married, and at the suggestion of his father-in-law, whose offspring were all navigators, took the name Foster-Brown. He went on to the battleship *Nelson* as Home Fleet Signals Officer in 1939 and in 1940 was mentioned in despatches for his work in the Norwegian campaign before going ashore to Derby House in Liverpool for four years. Admiral Sir Max Horton was a hard taskmaster and Foster-Brown was a hard worker, but he was not a seafarer as executive officer of the light cruiser *Ajax*, which had helped to contain the *Grey Spee* in the war's first winter. He was promoted to Captain in 1946 after only five years as a Commander, and served in the Admiralty as Director of the Air Organisation department before returning to sea in command of the 6th Frigate Squadron. *Affray* had sailed from Gosport on 16 April 1951 with 23 officers under training on board. When she failed to report her position next day, and to acknowledge any signals, the emergency general message *Submiss* – a submarine is overdue – was made and a massive search mounted, centred in the vicinity of Start Point where she was expected. No trace was found, and by the evening of the 19th urgency had gone out of the operation. Foster-Brown's flotilla persisted. The wreck had to be found. They steamed 23,800 nautical miles in an area of 6,000 square miles until Foster-Brown deduced that they should search elsewhere, in the Hurd Deep, a deep trench west of the Channel Isles. There, late in June, they found her in 46 fathoms, nearly 40 miles from her last known position. Her venting mast, the Dutch device nicknamed the Schnorkel, which allowed boats to run on their diesel engines while submerged, was broken off, and she would have flooded very quickly. Foster-Brown was concerned that his flotilla's work was never recognised or acknowledged and when he returned to the Admiralty in 1952 as Director of the Signals Division he sent for the pack, or file, on the subject to satisfy his curiosity. To his amazement, he found that a contemporary, like him approaching consideration for advancement to the flag list, had not only represented himself as responsible for the finding of the *Affray* but also recorded that it was at his suggestion that Foster-Brown looked where he did. Such behaviour seems almost incredible and one wonders how it was dealt with. Foster-Brown became a Rear-Admiral in 1955 and his rival did not, which was some consolation. By that time, Foster-Brown had commanded the Colony-class cruiser *Ceylon*, which escorted the Queen on her Commonwealth tour in the chartered SS *Gothic*, temporarily commissioned as a Royal Yacht, whereafter, safely on the flag list, her Captain became Flag Officer Gibraltar from 1956 to 1959. Roy Foster-Brown had an active and happy retirement, prominent in the *livry* of the *Armourers' and Braziers' Company*, of which he was Master in 1944-65 and again 10 years later. **A. B. SAINSBURY**

Roy Stephenson Brown (Roy Foster-Brown), naval officer, born 16 January 1904; CB 1958; married 1933 Joan Foster (two sons); died 8 January 1999.



HISTORICAL NOTES RALPH BENNETT

1944: forewarned and forearmed

IN RECENT years the idea of breaking the supposedly unbreakable German Enigma code has attracted more attention than the exploitation of the intelligence derived from it (soon christened "Ultra"). The spotlight has been turned on the mathematicians and chess-players who did the impossible. Without them, what the Germans were telling each other by radio would never have been known, but the knowledge was to prove a war-winning weapon. In early 1941 at Bletchley Park, civilians lacking military experience above the level of the vocabulary of command – I was one of them – were suddenly empowered to send Enigma-derived signals to GHQ Cairo about Rommel's activities in Egypt. We learned about German plans to attack Crete a fortnight before the invasion was launched. From then onwards we were always busy, increasingly so as D-Day approached. By 1944 there was so much Ultra originating in France, Italy and elsewhere that it required a cool head to keep abreast of developments in all theatres and to switch attention from one to another perhaps several times an hour. Crete was lost, mainly because there was insufficient force to take advantage of the forewarning. The perfect revenge did not come until two years later. By retreating through Tunisia, Rommel gave advance notice that he would counter-attack with 31,000 men and 135 tanks at a place called Medenine on 6 March. Montgomery dug in 600 anti-tank guns and quickly knocked out 50 German tanks. Unless there is force to back it, intelligence is useless; given sufficient force, intelligence sharpens conquest and can even create the opportunity for it. Ultra first made its mark in late summer 1942. With Rommel poised for a final thrust on Cairo, Churchill appointed Montgomery to the command of 8 Army. Montgomery drew up a plan of action, dividing what he would do and how to foil him. Two days later, Rommel told Hitler exactly the same – in Enigma. The defensive battle of Alam Halfa paved the way for the victory of Alamein. The Montgomery legend was born and Ultra's reputation established. Ultra's greatest triumph was to reveal Hitler's biggest mistake. By the end of July 1944 the British 21 Army Group was massed round Caen, the Americans had taken Cherbourg and were advancing down the west coast of the peninsula. The Germans tried to cut off their advance on 6 August. On 10 August Hitler personally ordered a renewal of the attempt – thus committing his armour westwards although his main danger was from his rear in the east. Both allies took immediate advantage. Two German armies were surrounded and annihilated in the Falaise pocket. Paris fell on 25 August. In the euphoria of victory everyone from the Chiefs of Staff down excitedly proclaimed, "Hitler is beaten, the war is almost over." Only Churchill kept his head, saying on 8 September that it was at least as likely that Hitler would still be resisting at the beginning of the New Year as that he would collapse before then. In fact, Arnhem was still to come and the surrender did not follow until May 1945. The sobering lesson was the old one about not counting chickens before they are hatched. It has been said that Ultra shortened the war by two years. This is pure speculation, however plausible it may seem – even in 1945 new and faster U-boats fitted with Schnorkels to make them undetectable might still have cut the supply-line which fed Britain and fuelled Normandy, had they been developed just a few months earlier. What is certain, however is that from at least late in 1942 Ultra gave such a profound insight into the intentions of the Nazi High Command and the activities of its subordinates that its contribution to victory was nothing less than tremendous. **Ralph Bennett is the author of 'Behind the Battle' (Pimlico, £12.50)**

Enforcement of foreign arbitration award

TUESDAY LAW REPORT
2 FEBRUARY 1999

Minmetals Germany GmbH v Ferco Steel Ltd
Queen's Bench Division, Commercial Court (Mr Justice Colman)
20 January 1999

Roche & Temperley for the plaintiff; Michael Swainston (Ince & Co) for the defendant.

THE COURT considered the matters which were relevant on an application to set aside leave to enforce a foreign arbitration award. An application to set aside leave to enforce two arbitration awards made under the auspices of the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission of Peking (CIETAC) was refused. A dispute had arisen out of a contract which contained a Chinese arbitration clause. In January 1998 the plaintiff obtained leave under s 101 of the Arbitration Act 1996 to enforce awards in an initial arbitration and in a resumed arbitration conducted under the auspices of CIETAC. It was common ground that the awards were New York Convention awards, and that unless the Peking court ordered a retrial and revocation of the awards they were, as they stood, final and enforceable under Chinese law. On the defendant's application to set aside leave to enforce the awards, the following issues, *inter alia*, arose: whether the defendant had been prevented from presenting its case; whether the awards had been arrived at by an arbitral procedure not in accordance with the agreement of the parties, in breach of the CIETAC rules; and whether the defendant had established that the awards had been arrived at by means which were contrary to the requirements of substantial justice contained in English law as explained in *Adams v Cape Industries* [1990] 1 Ch 433, so that enforcement would be contrary to public policy. *Duncan Matthews (Sinclear*

was no doubt that, as regards the first award, they had not acted in accordance with "international practices and the principle of fairness and reasonableness". Notwithstanding that, following the Peking court's order for a resumed hearing, the evidence relied on by the arbitrators at the first hearing was open to challenge, but no such challenge had been advanced. The defendant had, by Art 45 of the Rules, waived its right to object. In international commerce a party who contracted into an agreement to arbitrate in a foreign jurisdiction was bound not only by the local arbitration procedure but also by the supervisory jurisdiction of the courts of the seat of the arbitration. Where, therefore, an enforcement alleged that a New York Convention award should not be enforced because enforcement would lead to substantial injustice and would thus be contrary to English public policy, the following considerations would normally be relevant: the nature of the procedural injustice; whether the enforcement had invoked the supervisory jurisdiction of the seat of the arbitration; whether a remedy was available under that jurisdiction; whether the courts of that jurisdiction had conclusively determined the enforceability of the award; and, if the enforcement had failed to invoke that remedial jurisdiction, his reason for, and whether he had acted unreasonably in, failing to do so. In the present case the enforcement of the awards would not lead to substantial injustice. **KATE O'HANLON, Barrister**

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

IN MEMORIAM

EINSMIDT: Mary (Bark). Much-loved mother of Ian, Gerd and Mark. Missed and remembered by her family in Cape Town.

LECTURES

Sham College, Barnard's Hall, London EC1: Pro or Gerald Wakefield. e Internet pornography censorship? 5.30pm. Local Portrait Gallery: Cooper, "Plots and (als) (x): from Suez to 20". 1.10pm.

announcements for BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS are set at £5.50 a line (VAT extra).

BIRTHDAYS

Mr Ken Bruce, broadcaster, 48; Sir Gordon Bryce, former Chief Justice of the Bahamas, 86; The Earl of Clarendon, former chairman and managing director, Secombe, Marshall and Campion, 66; Sir Andrew Davis, chief conductor, BBC Symphony Orchestra, and musical director, Glyndebourne Festival Opera, 55; The Very Rev Dr Victor de Waal, former Dean of Canterbury, 70; Lord Eatwell, President, Queens' College, Cambridge, 54; Mr Abba Eban, former Israeli foreign minister, 84; Mr Glynn Edwards, actor, 68; Mr Ronnie Fearn MP, 68; Sir Norman Fowler MP, 61; M Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, former French president, 73; Mr Marcus Hope, ambassador to Zaire, 57; Mr David Jason, actor, 59; Mr David Jones, chief executive, Next, 56; Sir Chips Keswick, chairman, Hambros Bank, 59; Mr Barry McGuigan, feather-weight boxing champion, 38; Dame Alix Meynell, former

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: (Eleanor) Nell Gwynn, actress and mistress of Charles II, 1650; Hannah More, religious writer, 1745; John Nichols, printer and writer, 1746; Charles-Maurice de Talleyrand-Périgord, statesman and diplomat, 1754; Daniel Macleise, historical painter, 1806; Henry Havelock Ellis, sex psychologist, 1859; James Augustine Joyce, writer, 1882; James Stephens, poet and novelist, 1882; Les (Leslie) Dawson, comedian, 1934. Deaths: Baldassare Castiglione, writer and courtier, 1529; Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, composer, 1594; John Lawrence Sullivan, bare-knuckle fighter, 1918; Sir Owen Seaman, editor of *Punch*, 1938; Bertrand Russell, third Earl Russell, philosopher, 1970; Alistair Maclean, novelist, 1987; Bernard Braden, senior civil servant, 96; Miss Libby Purves, journalist, 49; Miss Elaine Stritch, actress and singer, 72.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of Edinburgh, Founder and Chairman of the International Trustees of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, visits St John's Innovation Centre and St John's College, the Oast House and St Faith's School, Cambridge; and visits Burrell Limited, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire. The Prince of Wales opens the Cavenfish Suite in the Haemato-Oncology Unit at Chesterfield and North Derbyshire Royal Hospital, Calow, Derbyshire. The Princess Royal, President, Save the Children Fund, addresses the Closing Plenary Session of the 1999 Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum, Davos, Switzerland. The Duke of Kent, President, Wellington College, visits an art exhibition, followed by dinner, at Wellington College, Crowthorne, Berkshire.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; No 7 Company Coldstream Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, and provided by dinner, at Wellington College, Crowthorne, Berkshire.

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE
sexy, adj.

cause it's sexy that it has led us to neglect the basics." The OED merges the hormonal and the ad-man usage, citing the *Wall Street*

Journal in 1970: "soybeans may not sound as sexy as electronics". The *Grocer's* Jane Hampton, no less, enthuses over something called Cheesestrings – peelable string cheese. Apparently, this stuff has scope for greater "penetration and usage" – hardly the case with Dairy Lea cheese triangles of yore.

The Lord is my shepherd

Not only does your dog have rights, it has a soul. And now it has its own set of church services. The author? A distinguished Oxford professor. By Paul Valley

The caller at the other end of the phone sounded weary. "Phone George Austin (the Church of England's arch-traditionalist) and he'll tell you it's an outrage," the disembodied voice said. "Phone John Habgood (the former Archbishop of York) and he'll tell you it's theologically unsound. And then phone the Archbishop of Canterbury's public affairs secretary and he'll tell you it's all unauthorised. And then you'll have your story." No, I said, I'd rather come and have a chat about it.

The voice belonged to the Reverend Professor Andrew Linzey, holder of the world's first academic post in "theology and animal welfare" at Mansfield College, Oxford. The subject of our conversation was his new book, *Animal Rites*, bound to cause controversy when it is published later this month because it contains the first set of church services for animals ever published. There are the equivalents of pet baptisms and funerals, together with healing services for animals. There are even memorial liturgies to be performed outside abattoirs and laboratories.

Couched, as they are, in the kind of Christian language previously reserved for interceding between humans and the Almighty, they will undoubtedly cause offence in certain circles even as they will be welcomed by animal rights activists and by a certain type of doting pet-owner.

It is the Fido-factor that is the problem, I told Prof Linzey when we eventually met in a study, foggy with pipe smoke, in the Oxford college where he is a fellow. Just insert that doggiest of names into the liturgy he has devised for pet owners, to swear a covenant with what he likes to call their "companion animals", and you get the idea: PRIEST: Will you name this creature?

RESPONDENT: Fido.
Will you care for Fido as God's own creature?
I will with God's grace.
Will you be mindful of his Christ-like vulnerability?
I will be so mindful...

(The human companion is then invited to touch/pat/stroke the animal as a sign of the covenant reaffirmed between them.)

Prof Linzey smiled wryly. "I've married enough Berts and Brendas to know that the insertion of certain individual names inevitably screws

up the poetry of a prayer," he said. The key issue was this: Church people, newly conscious of the frail ecology of the world, were happy enough to frame prayers for the broad sweep of creation, but if you talk about one particular animal they feel uncomfortable.

"But the truth is that our relationships are with individual animals," he said. "It's no good the Lambeth Conference saying that 'the redemptive purpose of God in Jesus Christ extends to the whole of creation', and then ignoring the fact that individual animals were

'The idea that God is mainly interested in humans is mind-bogglingly absurd'

made by God every bit as much as we were - and that the Incarnation is for them as much as it is for us."

This, it has to be said, is not the orthodox view. Animals do not have equal worth with people, according to Christianity's traditional reading of the book of Genesis - which says that God gave men and women dominion over the creatures of the earth. A similar attitude persisted in the classical world, when Aristotle's teachings prompted widespread belief that the world was there for man's use. The notion persisted through the Age of Enlightenment, and it continues at the core of much modern science. It is only comparatively recently that environmentalists and, more lately, animal rights activists have begun to question the concept of human supremacy.

"Over the centuries, people have fallen into an idolatry - the idea that God is predominantly or exclusively interested in the human species," said Prof Linzey. "But it's a mind-bogglingly gob-smackingly, breathtakingly absurd notion. Why did God create the wasp? Not for human need. How could dinosaurs have been there for people to exploit? I find it deeply reassuring that God has other concerns."

Ordinary people know this, he insisted, and you can see it in their attitude to their pets. "Of course there can be sentimentality and emotional over-indulgence," he said, puffing on his pipe. "But consider the impact which the death of a companion an-

imal can have. The experience of bereavement can be as deep, and sometimes deeper, than the loss of another human. Christian theology has failed to recognise the significance of animal-human companionship. Churches, in practice, have very little to offer those in the throes of bereavement; indeed, they frequently express hostility or ridicule."

Linzey knows that he is risking this himself. He is out on a shaky limb with a book whose dedication reads: "For Barney, still wagging his tail, in heaven." Animals do not have souls and cannot go to heaven, according to orthodox dogma, but Linzey disagrees: "We know that this creature, who died on earth, shall live again in heaven," reads his "Liturgy for Animal Burial".

There was a knock on the door: it was Prof Linzey's teenage daughter, on her way home from school. She had called in to report on the latest developments in her battle with her biology teachers. She was refusing to dissect pigs' hearts as part of her coursework. The professor broke off to listen, and offer words of support: "You should remember what my first parish priest said to me: 'You'll never make a priest if you want to be loved by everyone.'"

She smiled weakly and set off home to do her homework.

"If you seek untrammelled popularity, you will have no prophetic voice," her father elaborated after she had gone. "Telling the truth does not always make people love you; Jesus found that."

It's not questions of truth, but of priority and proportion, which most worry me about the animal rights movement, I told him. It seems odd that people are prepared to take to the streets to protest about veal in crates, but do nothing for the 1 billion people who go to bed hungry every night in the Third World.

"Perhaps they have a sense that people, however dispossessed they may be, can speak and act for themselves. But animals - like children and embryos - depend upon others to articulate their plight," he said. "They are the weakest, who cannot speak for themselves - vulnerable, unprotected, innocent... Christ-like in their suffering."

But, hang on, can you project innocence on to animals? Innocence is a moral quality. If animals, as CS Lewis put it, are capable of neither sin nor virtue, then innocence is not an appropriate term. And the moral worth of Christ's choice came not from being defenceless, but from



Professor Andrew Linzey: 'Christianity has failed to recognise the significance of human-animal companionship' John Lawrence

choosing not to defend himself.

It was all getting theologically dense, so I asked him what was his position on animal rights activists attacking scientists and farmers. "They're not just wrong, but undermine their own case," he replied. "The weakness of the contemporary animal rights movement is its self-righteousness. That's a killer of moral sense. We're all impure when it comes to animals: all red wine is filtered through the bones of dead animals; all orthodox medicine has

at some point involved the exploitation of animals - so have most paints, dyes, washing-up liquids, fire extinguishers. You can't be pure, but you can have a process of progressive disengagement, moving towards a vision of living in a cruelty-free world. These are veggie shoes, for instance, and they look all right."

He waved his black brogues at me. Indeed they did. "They're made by Lynx, the anti-fur-trade people," he said, before explaining that the argument was the same as the one

over when war was permissible. The theory of "just war" sets down conditions, but does not detract from the general injunction that we should not kill. "Killing must be the last resort, not the first, yet our killing of other species has become habitual."

Which is why his book of prayers rails against veal crates, hen batteries, sow stalls, whaling, hunting for sport, the slaughter of seals and the "institutionalised abuse of millions of animals in laboratories".

"I used to be frightened of con-

troversy; now I accept it," he said, refilling his pipe. "In an ideal world change would come without it. But this is not an ideal world: 150 years ago, the Church was defending slavery as the Christianisation of the dark races; 50 years ago it justified the subordination of women as part of the God-given order."

Now where did I put George Austin's phone number?

'Animal Rites' by Andrew Linzey, published by SCM Press, price £9.95

Dance away the heartache (dance away the arrears)

Exams are over, and the students' attention is turning to other topics. In Dave and Alistair's case, this means money. By Cayte Williams

EXAMS ARE finally over and the pressure's off. Most of the students have had exams this January. The first term of their second years was a gentle lead-in to the important stuff. Any exams they take from now on will count towards their final degree. That's why last term was decision time for Leona at UMIST (University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology). She just hadn't done the work to show she could hack the rest of the second year. If these Manchester students are anything to go by, to be a student now means you actually have to do some work.

And most of it isn't spoon-fed. Ian, for example, only has four hours a week lecture time, the rest is taken up with reading endless books, studying and writing essays. Now that the jungle of nerves are no longer disturbing the house, the corridors are crowded with sounds from The Beatles (Alistair) to drum 'n' bass (Leona). Ian and Tasha finished their swot-athon last Friday and spent Saturday night going wild at Fluid, one of the better Manchester clubs. You

THIS STUDENT LIFE



SPRING TERM, WEEK 4 AT THE MANCHESTER STUDENT HOUSE

might find it hard to fathom why Tasha goes to clubs at all. She doesn't drink and can't differentiate one type of club music from another. "I dunno what music it was," she says. "House music maybe!" She's looking forward to going home. "I really miss my family and I haven't seen them since Christmas," she says. Alistair the money-maker decided on a post-modernist night out to celebrate the end of his exams. He headed for Club Trop, named after the

Wham! hit "Club Tropicana" ("where membership's a smiling face," sings Tasha. Yes, she knows all the words). "I got hammered," says a disconcertingly jolly-sounding Alistair. "and then I passed out."

Now he's sober, he's waxing lyrical about President Clinton. "When I was in America over Christmas, Clinton was on the air all the time. It was like, 'Here is the news from Clinton's toilet! Moment by moment action! Watch as he squeezes the last drop!' It was completely ridiculous, utterly boring."

He has an interesting insight on the rights and wrongs of the saga. "I thought the whole point of being a powerful president is that you got to have whoever you wanted. And I tell you what: out of all the girls I could have had I wouldn't have chosen Monica Lewinsky."

Alistair is going through his own love pain. He's missing Tori, his girlfriend in America. "We've spoken on the phone a few times and I've sent her a few tapes," he says, "and I'm throwing myself into so much activity that I won't have time to miss her." His

bedroom has its own testament to mushiness, with a poster of a couple watching the sunset. He isn't allowing himself much time to pine. Alistair is in an entrepreneurial frenzy. Not only is he organising his 21st birthday party, he's hiring DJs and organising tickets for club nights.

Meanwhile, Dave's one-off night he promoted in a local club before Christmas was a roaring success, and the owners have offered him a weekly slot. He is considering going into business with Alistair.

Dave has a big advantage. For health reasons (unspecified) his doctor has told him he can't drink any alcohol. So while everyone else is getting pissed at his club nights, he'll be going around stone-cold sober.

"I'm all right," he says. He's just getting over the shock. "It'll save me a lot of money, and I will have to keep focused on my work. I won't be getting up at two in the afternoon any more. It'll make me fitter!" he declares, warming to the theme. "I'll go to the gym rather than the pub and if I want a drink, I'll get a Coke!" We'll see if his enthusiasm lasts the week.

	DANI studying Biology
	ROSIE studying French
	DAVID studying Management
	LEONA was studying Maths
	TASH studying Management
	ALISTAIR studying Management
	RACHEL studying Art History
	IAN studying Geography
	ROBBIE studying Economics

THE JOYS OF MODERN LIFE

31. HULA HOOPS BY LOUISA YOUNG

FOR A start, they're round. Round is good: aesthetically pleasing, simple, pure. Then they're plain. Nothing can go wrong with them. Even if the two ends do come apart at the join you just stick them back into each other. If they won't, you can put one end to your mouth and spiral the other in a big loop to your friend's ear and use it as a funny telephone. But what they're really for is something so simple and perfect that although to my knowledge there are no pictures of hula-hooping devotees in tomb paintings or carved on Egyptian temples, it is only a matter of time before some are discovered.

One of the joys of Cairo is the Sufi dancers at al Ghouri, who two nights a week whirl with an elegance and energy which entrances the audience as well as the dervishes. They wear wide, circular skirts, their hems reinforced with I'm not sure what, and they have a particular pace - a kind of one-two-three step - with which they propel themselves round, keep their balance and make their direct and mystical connection to God. As they do so, their skirts rise, fall, whirl and billow in great circular movements, guided by their arms as part of the dance. Always moving, they undo their waistbands and their skirts become as hoops, the cloth folded in, and they whirl on, for hours sometimes, round their waists, their knees, their feet, one arm and then the



other, their necks, then way up above their heads, the circle spinning and spinning as the man spins too. It's clearly related to orbit, the passages of the sun, the moon and the earth, the music of the spheres and the perfection of geometry. Circles on circles.

Now it is not quite like this in the playground, but it is not entirely different: the girls at my daughter's school, when they spin themselves round, do the same footwork as the Cairo Sufi dancers. When they bend their waists in that to-and-fro snaking movement to keep the hoop spinning on their hips - the movement is always much slower than you expect - they remind me of belly dancers.

The modern hula hoop is 41 this year. In 1958, 25 million of them sold in four months, and they were banned from the streets of Tokyo. It was the biggest fad ever. Another fad, the hoochie-coochie, was a de-

rivative of a dance identical with the temple dancers of Kutch in India (there's nothing new). Not that children care. They like hula hooping because they can do it and grown-ups, on the whole, can't. And it's something you learn to do at about five or six, when serious independence - climbing trees, going up the road on your own - starts to tempt. Grown-ups are better at most activities requiring independence. Not this, though: when they try, they are stiff, awkward, out of time and embarrassed. It's a great role reversal.

I can't do it. But I comfort myself that I never could, do know a trick, however: where you bowl the hoop away from you - and you can bowl it quite hard to go 20 or 30 feet - and with a particular flick of the wrist you can make it pause at the end of its journey and then roll straight back to your waiting hand. It manages to impress even the most accomplished of six-year-olds.

THE INDEPENDENT

Show us the big picture

Is Andreas Gursky really just a photographer who wants to be a painter? Or are his perfectly composed, digitally manipulated pictures an attempt to parody photography itself and our image-saturated world? By Tom Lubbock

Andreas Gursky's pictures are beautiful – or so they seem. What kind of truth they're after is another matter. This German photographer is in his mid-forties. He has an exhibition of his work from the last five years at the Serpentine Gallery. His subjects are such as these: the Rhine, with the river, its far and near green banks, the entirely blank sky above, all lying in absolutely straight-edged and parallel horizontal bands.

A glass-fronted skyscraper at night, every single window lit, and revealing a series of miniature, meticulously sharp tableaux of the interior.

A bright white wall of alpine mountainside, evenly speckled all over with dark trees and rocks.

A hugely spacious hotel atrium-lobby, whose architecture is viewed with miraculously exact symmetry, and whose colours are incredibly pure and flat. And vast May Day crowds, packed trading floors, offices with zooming perspectives of desks, sweeping nocturnal city-scapes.

His pictures are, for photographic prints, very large. Two and a half metres is a common width. Whatever the subject, his shots look highly rehearsed, set up, as far as can be from snaps. They seem to hold more than the eye can see. They have a great depth of focus, far and near, all sharp. Their angles of vision can be extremely wide (and with no apparent distortions). They are packed with very small but very solid, high-resolution detail (often these details are anti-like humans). They have regularities that appear too neat to be true. The images fall perfectly into flat, abstract designs. They have within them unreal patterns of repeated elements.

When people interpret Gursky, they tend to talk about the way his pictures stress the depersonalisation, regimentation, hygienisation of modern society and modern nature. If this is indeed their vision – and, as stated, it seems considerably less fascinating than the pictures themselves – then it is not a vision that the artist just discovers in the world he points his camera at. He deliberately puts it there. To be specific: this is a body of work that has perhaps in every case been subjected to digital manipulation.

Though seamless to the eye, the process is sometimes almost visible to common sense. Surely the horizon above the river couldn't be that dead straight. Surely that rising vista of the Bundestag, which keeps on going up, involves more than one point of view. Surely the lighting of that crowd of figures on the Chicago trading floor is too bitty and collage-like. Surely that hotel lobby is beyond belief. And can you spot literal image-repeats in the bits of dark rock and tree dotted around the snow? Maybe one would be staggered to discover how little unaltered actuality remained. I don't know. But I must admit, I never feel quite happy about all this.

Another visitor to the gallery didn't feel happy at all, saying: "He doesn't know whether he wants to be a photographer or a painter." That visitor, I'm sure, was a photographer. But the question is, with image technology moving where it's mov-



'Chicago Board of Trade' (1997): 'Whatever his subject, his shots look rehearsed, set up, as far as can be from snaps'

ing, is Gursky or anyone else really obliged to decide between the two professions? Can't you be both, or something in between? Well, I think there are points to argue here.

People tend to say blunty: images are all just images, however they're produced – and besides, traditional photography is hardly innocent of monkey-business. That's true, of course. Photographers can make very free with lenses, cropping, printing, the over- or under-exposing of details. (Gursky does a lot of this, too). And you may say this is no different in kind from the stuff that can be done with computers.

I think there is a difference, though, and it's as much ethical as technical. Traditional photography does generally draw a line where

manipulated photography doesn't. It won't change the shape or position of something in an image. It won't introduce bits from other images, or splice two images together. No doubt it won't do these things partly because it can't do them, or not as seamlessly as computers can. All the same, the line itself is not entirely arbitrary. It's a matter of respecting some basic matters of fact.

But if a rational line can be drawn, why insist on it? Here the case for traditional photos seems weaker. Yes, some photos are about fact and evidence. But lots aren't, and then they have to defend their photographic status with something like an angler's boast: that, through luck, alertness, cunning, patience, they actually saw and caught this image. So? It's as if

the picture, whatever its virtues, can only be worth anything if it's founded on a find.

It can be hard to shed this feeling. I was shocked, going round, to realise how much I missed that sense of *trouville*, and felt cheated by its absence – what, be just makes it up? But I take the point. To insist on the pure find is often to impose a redundant virtuosity.

However, the argument is likely to turn on the image-manipulators too. For you could equally ask them: so why this insistence on making images that still look just like photographs? Why do collage, but then remove all the visible cuts and jumps to create a smoothly unified view? Why stay loyal to the distinctive photographic look – that pure-

ly tonal style of image-making that comes out of the camera?

For surely, the only claim this particular look has on us is precisely its long association with found truth. But if this association is now utterly broken, why hold on to the style, which is now just one style among many? If you have your vision of the modern world, why not paint it or collage it or whatever? Why stick to making fake photos?

There can be answers to these questions, and answers which don't involve fakery. For instance, you may say that the photo-look has become simply the *lingua franca* of the modern image. Once it had the authority of truth, but now it's just normal, the style everyone understands, so one had better use it. Or

on the other hand, you might specifically want a truth effect – the idea could be to make people imagine the manipulated picture's fiction as actuality, or maybe to stage a clash between the photo-look and an impossibly unreal image. Or a photo-look might be employed to make some point about photography itself.

And now this argument-excursion has got us back to Gursky's work and what it's up to, namely: several of the tricks mentioned above, especially the last. His pictures aren't trying to pass themselves off as normal photos. They're trying to be super-photos, pictures that, through artifice, are excessively good at being the things a normal photo might wish to be. (No surprise that a photographer should resent them.) They are

glutted with the photographic. They're like a parody – a parody not of individual artists, but of a whole art and its whole take on the world – or of a world which has been so over-photographed that now it turns itself into a photo before our eyes.

But to see this, of course, one needs to see the pictures as not quite true. Whether, as image-technology advances, and we get used to it, and the photo-look is more and more dissociated from any truth value, we'll then still be able to catch Gursky's large and beautiful ironies, is a point that can at least occur to us.

Andreas Gursky – Photographs 1994-98: Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, London W2; daily admission free

STUART HIGGINS

The truth is that Camilla's 'coming out' ceremony has had several false starts

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THE INDEPENDENT COLLECTOR

JOHN WINDSOR'S GUIDE TO COLLECTING CONTEMPORARY ART. THIS WEEK: JACK VETTRIANO

JACK VETTRIANO borrowed the title of his painting, *Game On* (right), from pinball jargon. Lights flash, bells ring. It is the moment when a promise turns into a cert. The two lovers are not even naked – yet this was the sexiest painting at Art 99, the big annual London Contemporary Art Fair that took place last month. It sold for £15,000 and Tom Hewlett of the Portland Gallery reckoned he could have sold the painting several times over.

We've mostly all been there: have learnt to interpret the body signals of the opposite sex, then swapped notes among giggling groups of our own gender. The wonder is why, when so much art is about sex, so few artists have shown it as it is played out in real life, as Vetrano does. There's obviously a problem here. And it is made no easier for Vetrano by the fact that he is a former coalminer in his native Scotland and a self-taught artist, too.

Art critics, especially south of the Border, have studiously ignored his work, despite – or perhaps, because of – its popularity with private buyers. A few disdain it as soft porn. No public galleries have bought it. Why can't he paint miners with blackened faces blinking in the dawn light? Why must his courting couples circle one another in bars and dance-halls, wearing collars and ties

and skimpy dresses? Such second-rate glamour. Is that the correct way to represent the working class?

The fact is that that is how the mating game was enacted in the Fifties of Vetrano's youth – and still is. He is 45 now, was down the pit between the ages of 16 and 29, and recalls: "I couldn't wait to leave school, get a job, buy my first suit and get into the Friday and Saturday night dancing. Those who glamourise the pit are those who weren't there. I was bloody there, and I can tell you there was bugger-all to call romantic."

And now? What about the couple in *Game On*? They're not scrapping around for money. The mining valley has become silicon valley. Japanese electronics companies have moved in. All we could afford at those weekend dances was Coke, but those two probably have a couple of bottles of bubbly in the fridge. That little black dress is a provocation, but she probably paid no more than £9.99 for it in a department store.

And the sex? Aren't the working class supposed to do it with the light turned off and their socks on? "In my youth, I never noticed any stiffness towards sex. We used to do it wherever we could – behind the Co-op, on the beach, in bus shelters. Looking back, it was dreadful, but I still feel a great



fondness for those times. It was a great way to get into adulthood."

He says: "I sometimes get the feeling from critics that sex itself is not correct, that they'd rather have a landscape. But we live in a world where people are sexually

driven. It is a powerful thing, powerful enough to unseat presidents. People are desperate for it. Voracious. Men will do any bloody thing to get it. They will go back to the same woman, to the same brothel, even though they know they are on the road to destruction. It is like being an alcoholic."

"In my paintings, people know this. They dress glamorously and the atmosphere is highly charged, but they are not particularly happy. They know that things are not likely to work out. They neither know nor care whether they will see the person they are pursuing the following day."

Vetrano now has a studio in London. He is selling his mansion in Edinburgh and intends to buy a smaller house there. He paints all the time. His marriage broke up at about the time his paintings began to sell.

Prices: you can still buy a 12in by 10in canvas for around £3,000 (*'Game On'* is 40in by 30in) from the Portland Gallery (0171-321 0423); the less provocative paintings – dancing on the beach, bar scenes – have been published as prints by The Art Group in the standard sizes 40cm by 50cm (from about £3) and 60cm by 80cm (from about £18); they retail at print stores such as Athena, the Art Factory and House of Fraser

HEALTH

The drug Nabilone offers great pain relief, but is not freely available. Why? Because it is synthetic cannabis, says Dr Colin Brewer

When the drugs do work

Even over the telephone, you can tell that Walter Dale probably never smoked cannabis as a teenager. Not the type. Not the age-group. His teens were the early Fifties when cannabis simply wasn't around, unless you were a Jamaican saxophonist. By the time it appeared in the mid-Sixties, Walter was married, running a successful business and collecting old Jowett cars. If he wanted to adjust his brain, he used alcohol. Until his late-50s, he was fit and healthy, but ageing humans, like ageing Jowetts, give trouble sooner or later. In 1995, he slipped a disc.

After an operation (courtesy of Bupa, so no delay), there was some residual pain. The surgeons said a little injection near the spine should do the trick. It probably does for 99 per cent of patients but Walter's legs were numb and paralysed the next day. Movement and feeling returned, but he was left with increasingly severe pain and weakness. Soon, he had to use two walking sticks and neither his GP nor the local pain specialists had an answer. Strong opiates didn't help and, in any case, he feared becoming addicted to them.

A few months ago, he read that cannabis sometimes relieved intractable pain. Overcoming his law-abiding habits, Walter obtained some. He wasn't very hopeful but five minutes after the first lungful, the pain was enormously better. Subsequent cannabis joints were equally effective. He told his GP who was, as always, sympathetic but couldn't legalise Walter's successful self-medication with cannabis. Walter contacted Release, who normally advise youngsters arrested for possessing illicit drugs. Release referred him to me, though I specialise in addiction, not pain.

As I understood the legal situation, I could prescribe heroin for Walter but not cannabis, though it might become possible when planned clinical trials had been completed in a year or two. Of course, I'm all in favour of objective scientific trials, but I also believe that one of the primary duties of doctors is to relieve pain and that there's an important but unfashionable entity called "the art of medicine". In the absence of scientific evidence, I'm willing to use cautious empiricism to help my patients. Although I had never prescribed it, I knew of a synthetic cannabis preparation called Nabilone, used to control the severe nausea and vomiting which complicates some types of chemotherapy for cancer. I checked it out.

It wasn't even listed in the current MIMS (the pharmaceutical industry's monthly guide). The National Formulary mentioned it but warned that it was for hospital use only. The makers, Cambridge Laboratories (based, confusingly, in Tyneside), were very helpful and told me that in addition to its official, licensed use



The pain Walter Dale suffers as the result of a botched operation is greatly relieved by Nabilone, but the drug is only usually prescribed to cancer patients

Sean Paget

by hospital cancer specialists, any doctor could prescribe Nabilone for other purposes, provided the patient knows the drug is being used "off label", as the Americans say. This is not unique to Nabilone. Many drugs are prescribed "off label" because medical practice advances more quickly than medical bureaucracy. Prescribing "off label" exposes both patient and doctor to possible risks, and it must be done responsibly. But it is common in most areas of medicine. Nabilone isn't a "controlled drug" like morphine or dexamphetamine. It is actually in much the same legal category as many other drugs used to treat cancer.

I gave the good news to Walter's GP. He was afraid to prescribe it, so

I referred Walter to an allegedly sympathetic pain specialist. He was sympathetic, but not enough to prescribe it. It seemed I would have to prescribe it myself. I took a history and examined him. He was clearly quite handicapped and there was obvious wasting of the leg muscles. After intoning the official "off label" warnings, I gave him a prescription. Two chemists then refused to dispense it, apparently on the grounds that anything involving cannabis was dodgy. After two weeks, one relented, though Nabilone cost Walter much more than his illicit cannabis. He had to pay £117 for 20 capsules. They worked just as well, though the onset of relief was naturally slower than with smoking.

Cannabis shouldn't be denied Walter because of the USA's ineffective worldwide 'war on drugs'

One capsule a day is usually sufficient. He still walks slowly, sometimes even without sticks or pain, and the only side-effect is slight nausea. Naturally, I have asked myself whether this is simply a placebo effect. It could be but the benefit has

now lasted for over a month. We could easily give him some dummy capsules and see if he can tell the difference. The GP is impressed and accepts that he won't be dragged before the General Medical Council if he gives Walter an NHS prescription, but he still won't prescribe Nabilone because it costs so much and might be needed for several years.

Walter is 61 and married for a second time with three teenage children. He has had to retire from his business because of his disability, but at least he can live free of pain with Nabilone. What are we to make of this crazy situation? The official position that we can't prescribe cannabis until trials have been done, and maybe not even then, is obviously

incorrect. Nabilone is tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) - probably the main active constituent of cannabis. As with many new or under-researched treatments (especially drugs for AIDS), clinical trials can be done in parallel with empirical use.

Cannabis isn't a new drug and clearly has relatively low toxicity. It shouldn't be dished out like Snarities (nor should Valium), but it shouldn't be denied to deserving cases like Walter just because of the USA's ineffective worldwide "war on drugs" during the last 50 years.

I don't easily believe in conspiracy theories but I do suspect that the government is terrified of offending the US and that there's at least a

mini-conspiracy to pretend that Nabilone doesn't really exist. Or alternatively, to pretend that it can only be prescribed by cancer specialists for in-patients.

I don't say that it should be prescribed (especially on the NHS) to people who just want to get stoned, but it seems that most regular cannabis users prefer the real thing. I hope to get Walter enrolled in one of the trials expected to start soon, so that he won't have to pay about £5 a day for a legal supply of a drug which, in a sensible world, he could grow at home for a few pennies.

Dr Colin Brewer is medical director of the Stapleford Centre in London, which specialises in addiction

Schoolchildren, mind your backs

Carrying heavy schoolbags is endangering young people's health. By Teresa Wilson

A FAMILY of four could go away for a weekend with less luggage. Coat, schoolbags. PE kit, art folder, violin: children are not only struggling to school with such loads, but also from class to class during the day.

There is growing concern that these burdens are causing back problems during childhood that may lead to chronic pain in adult life.

In the past, most secondary children had an allocated desk with a sloped writing-top and room to store books - furniture that has now largely been replaced by flat-topped desks to accommodate group work. Pupils tend to move around during the day, sometimes sitting at desks and tables intended for someone bigger or smaller. Unless the school has lockers, they may carry their schoolwork with them all day.

Russell Dean, a chiropractor, says: "Sitting in front of the TV or a computer screen, carrying heavy bags and sitting at flat school desks are all setting up problems for the future. It's not just carrying the bags that is a problem, but the way they are carried. Too often you see children struggling under loads that are carried on one shoulder. If you are carrying weights, it should be evenly distributed. Too much strain on the back can lead to scoliosis, or curvature of the spine, particularly if it is unbalanced."

The Chiropractic Treatment Centre in Bournemouth has been undertaking research into the origins of back disorders. Dr Maïthe G



Rucksacks could become the new satchels Martin Spaven

Zahedi says that patients' records spanning the last 15 years show that some disorders start in childhood and are often associated with school activities such as carrying school bags, sitting for long periods, and certain sporting activities.

The National Back Pain Association (NBPA) raised many of these issues during National Back Pain Week last year. David Newbound is chairman of their children's working party. "We expect [children] to carry quite unreasonable weights. There are Health and Safety directives that prescribe what a postman should be

carrying, but no such guidelines relating to children in schools, which is the reason why the NBPA has issued its own guidelines."

One school taking the problem seriously is Acland Burghley, a comprehensive in Camden. "The transition from primary to secondary school can be quite a shock," says the deputy head, Simon Barber. "We've been looking into buying lockers, but they are expensive and we need to be sure of getting a good investment."

Lockers aren't always the answer, says Linda Castle, mother of two boys at a middle school in Berkshire. "There's not always enough time to go back to the locker and change books between lessons," she points out. "They get into trouble if they are late for a lesson, so they keep everything with them. On games days, they are carrying PE kits too."

One possible solution has been tried by Roy Ludlow, a headteacher who has incorporated a rucksack recommended by the NBPA into the school uniform of Beecher Cliff comprehensive in Bath. He says: "Not only do they protect children's backs, but they also have reflective strips which are an added safety feature. They're not compulsory yet, but it will be for all new pupils."

The NBPA schoolbags were designed by a team of experts, including Jim Taylor, an ergonomist. He is concerned not only with sound schoolbags, but also with well designed school furniture. "It is im-

portant to make sure that an environment fits the people, rather than the people fitting into the environment... School furniture is not in line with modern thoughts on posture and sitting, and needs to have a complete overhaul. I work with occupational health people from many large companies, and they report that more and more young people are entering the workplace with bad backs and postural problems."

Another ergonomist, Levent Caglar, has been working on a European Standard for school furniture. Schools will have two routes to choose from, he says - "flat-topped desks, or chairs with a slightly raised back that will open the angle of the children's body to their thighs, and should be used with a sloping desk... What we don't have at the moment is any definitive research looking at both types of furniture."

The problem for many schools is likely to be that of raising the money to replace furniture. But David Newbound says: "It is possible to buy a good, economical chair for under £20, and schools that have the moulded plastic bucket seat can modify them with a wedge for less than £15."

Emma Tate, Director of the National Back Pain Association, recommends: "We should make an investment in children now which might help to protect their backs for the future. Why are we subjecting children to seats that would be unacceptable in the workplace? Children are getting a raw deal."

Making no bones about osteoporosis

MY MOTHER and grandmother have both broken their hips. What can I do to prevent the same thing happening to me? I am a 28-year-old non-smoker with two small children.

Now is the right time for you to think about how to prevent broken bones in later life, because by the time you are in your fifties you are fighting an uphill struggle to keep your bones from becoming thin and brittle. And it is not too early to think about how to ensure that your children do not suffer broken bones when they are old, because poor nutrition in childhood and adolescence is an important risk factor. Most broken hips in elderly people are associated with osteoporosis, which makes bones thin and brittle. Human bones are strongest in the first few decades of life, then begin to deteriorate. You should have a calcium intake of at least 1,200mg a day. Most of this will probably come from dairy products, and you should try to use low-fat products. Regular exercise is very important, and weight-bearing, high-impact exercise is particularly good. Your whole family should get into the habit of exercising at least three times a week. Don't wait until your bones get brittle - by then it is too late.

A QUESTION OF HEALTH



DR FRED KAVALIER

A BLOOD test has revealed that my thyroid hormone levels are "a little on the low side". I have been offered thyroid supplements, but I do not know if they are really necessary. Will I need to take them for the rest of my life? The thyroid gland, which sits just below the larynx in the front of the neck, produces a hormone - thyroxine - which is vital for health. Children who do not have adequate thyroxine do not grow properly and their intellectual development can be affected. In adults, the effects are more subtle, but the commonest symptoms are tiredness, weight gain and depression. If thyroxine levels fall, the only way to correct them is to take thyroxine

supplements. If a blood test shows that your thyroxine levels are on the low side, or if the levels of another hormone - thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH) - are beginning to rise, you are likely to need to take thyroid supplements for the rest of your life. If the thyroxine levels are borderline, it would be sensible to have a repeat blood test in about six months. But if the levels are deteriorating, the only way to correct them is with supplements.

I HAVE taken 150mg of aspirin every day since suffering a heart attack in 1983. My doctor has now suggested that this can be reduced to 75mg. Will this be any less effective? A relatively tiny dose of aspirin (75mg seems to be plenty) is very effective in reducing the risk of a second heart attack in people who have already had one. The smaller dose that your doctor has suggested should be just as effective as 150mg, and it is less likely to cause side effects such as indigestion.

Send questions to A Question of Health, "The Independent", 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL; fax 0171-293 2182; or e-mail to health@independent.co.uk. Dr Kavalier cannot respond personally to questions

MEDIA

Has this story got the right spin, Mr Blair?

Number 10 plans to bypass Fleet Street to present its own image of Government policy. By Andrew Grice

WHEN *The Independent* asked Downing Street yesterday for an interview with Tony Blair about his plans to bypass Fleet Street in order to get his message over to the public, one wag at Number 10 quipped: "I think we will bypass you on this one. But there's a good piece in *Cosmopolitan* about it!" The jokes over, the Downing Street man went on to explain that press reports of Blair adopting a new media strategy to combat a Fleet Street obsessed with trivia were rather overblown. As he spoke, however, the Prime Minister was giving some credence to the theory by appearing on ITV's *Richard and Judy Show*. There was a certain irony in Blair's hour-long appearance on "tabloid TV" the day after Downing Street criticised the "dumbed down" national newspapers for focusing on "trivia, min-

isters' travel expenses, comment and soap opera". Asked on *Richard and Judy* if his decision to take part in the programme was to bypass the "spin" that papers put on what he said, Blair replied: "It is not a question of bypassing the newspapers because we deal through the newspapers the whole time. I do think it is a good idea for people in my position to try and communicate with people directly and to try and talk about things that really interest people in terms of policies and programmes of the Government. And sometimes you can do that in better ways than just the traditional ways."

For example, ministers have been advised to make greater use of women's magazines and journals aimed at the ethnic minorities. Downing Street's Strategic Communications Unit now has three full-time staff dedicated to these two areas. There will be Commons statements by ministers in an attempt to reach the audiences who watch live TV and radio programmes, without the "filter" of the national press. The seeds of the new strategy were planted in December when Blair was frustrated that newspapers were dominated by rows over Germany's demands for tax harmonisation in the EU. Downing Street spinmeisters were worried that the broadsheet newspapers were following the so-called "tabloid agenda" set when *The Sun* branded

Oskar Lafontaine, the German Finance Minister, "the most dangerous man in Europe". Alastair Campbell, Blair's influential and trusted press secretary, told colleagues that this was an example of Westminster-based journalists coalescing around a "centre of gravity", which he says they do during any running story. This drowned out the Government's message on other issues, and Blair resolved to appeal "over the heads" of the press to the people. But the Government's attempts to regain the initiative were short-lived. Its "Black Christmas" of resignations was followed by a spate of stories about the allegedly lavish lifestyle of ministers such as Jack

Cunningham, the Cabinet's enforcer, who took trips on Concorde. Campbell does not deny that the Mandelson affair was a "real story". But he is furious about the "Concorde" stories, complaining of little press attention to key elements of the Government's programme once there is no political controversy, citing the national minimum wage, the New Deal programme for the jobless, and the working families tax credit. So Downing Street has urged ministers to promote such activities in new ways. Campbell was delighted with the coverage in regional newspapers last week after a briefing given by Blair and David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, on the New Deal.

"People believe what they read in their regional newspapers more than what they read in the national press," a Downing Street insider insisted yesterday. And so the other reason for the "new strategy": Campbell hopes that, by making Fleet Street's behaviour an issue, it will be more inclined to cover "good news" government initiatives. So is it just another attempt to soften up the media? To be fair, Campbell and co have a point about the "dumbing down" of political coverage. *The Independent* is now the only newspaper with a page devoted to Parliament. Many newspapers are more interested in personalities than policies, though this is partly because there are so few policy dif-

ferences between the main parties. As a former political editor of the *Daily Mirror*, Campbell knows bad news will usually drive out the good. The Tories have not yet discovered the art of opposition, and so the press is helping to fill the vacuum - a perfectly legitimate function in a democratic society. So the Government should not protest too much. As the next general election approaches, Labour will be courting Fleet Street just as assiduously as it did before the 1997 poll, when winning over *The Sun* was Campbell's greatest coup. As Enoch Powell said, politicians who complain about the media are like sailors who moan about the sea. Even one Cabinet minister who is critical of the press's behaviour admitted: "Frankly, the politicians get the press they deserve, and vice versa. We are as bad as each other."

He has long been grooming Camilla to take her place at Charles's side. But just who is Mark Bolland? By Stuart Higgins

The man behind Operation Ritz

THE royal spin surgeon Mark Bolland touched down at Heathrow just 24 hours before the curtain went up on the Charles and Camilla show, ready to weave his own stitch of magic into the historic day. Mr Bolland, deputy private secretary to the Prince of Wales, is the true architect of Operation Ritz, in which 15 seconds of blinding flashbulbs ended at least 12 years of ducking and diving. Together in public at last, and mission impossible is mission accomplished, without as much as a hundred quid changing hands for the photo that the paparazzi had tagged as worth over £1m. The next day's headlines and editorials told a remarkable story of rehabilitation, tolerance and forgiveness, testimony to the triumph of the St James's Palace "spininformation" department. Reports in *The Sun* and *The Mirror* were warm - the two newspapers together represent over 17 million readers, so their editorials sent powerful messages to the whole of Britain, actively encouraging and supporting Charles and Camilla. The *Mirror*'s instant poll did show a 4-1 or 7-1 vote against the "coming out" but an identical poll a year ago would have been running at 8-1 against. As far as St James's Palace is concerned, public opinion is heading in the right direction.

Mr Bolland, former director of the Press Complaints Commission, had returned from Los Angeles to take personal control of Operation Ritz, and had privately assured his contacts at *The Sun* and *Daily Mail* by telephone that Thursday 28 January was T-Day, or Together Day. His information, when supplied, is like a golden nugget falling from the sky for the hand-picked assortment of editors and reporters he chooses to entrust. Newspapers are more conscious than ever of keeping costs down but this little gem of knowledge was reliable enough to send the veteran royal photographers to seek out the best vantage spots in front of London's Ritz Hotel from Tuesday afternoon

- probably the first time such an advance party has been launched since the heady days of Diana's public engagements. It was also a poignant reminder of her own last hours at the Paris Ritz. Mr Bolland has been in charge of the "Camilla Factor" - as it was referred to in private Palace meetings - since before Diana died in the summer of 1997. He speaks to her every day and has introduced her to influential people such as Peter Mandelson, who she thinks is "absolutely charming and great company". In turn, Camilla has enormous respect for Mr Bolland, who has cur-

house guests laugh out loud. Mr Bolland has also worked assiduously behind the scenes at wining, dining and briefing editors at *The Sun*, the *Daily Mail* and *The Daily Telegraph*, which he feels are key fields of influence for Camilla's safe and steady passage from relative obscurity and notoriety to controlled fame and understanding. He is never short of an invitation from a journalist who fancies his chances of picking up the crumbs of a story but Mr Bolland's agenda - on behalf of his master - is far greater and not necessarily in step with his crusty counterparts at Buckingham Palace.

Indeed, it is true the Queen did not know in advance any detail of the momentous events unfolding round the corner from her London home. The Queen was 'relieved' that the couple had made a public appearance together at last

Her most senior courtiers, such as private secretary Sir Robert Fellowes, have openly disapproved of the relationship and even encouraged the Prince to end it. Sir Robert is to be replaced next month by Sir Robin Janvrin who, with Mary Francis, is regarded as "more enlightened" on the Camilla issue. One senior aide said the Queen was "relieved" that the couple had made a public appearance together at last - "but it has not changed her views on the matter which are private". The actual "coming out" ceremony had several "false starts", principally due to fears of a backlash over the suitability of the occasion. The Prince's advisers were anxious not to be seen to "hijack" a high-profile event and use it as a convenient vehicle for their public debut. A first opportunity arose at a gala for Camilla's charity, the National

Osteoporosis Society, in late 1997. The invitation list had been sent out to politicians, celebrities and friends of the charity but the sudden death of the Princess of Wales made the event a non-starter and it was Camilla herself who instantly cancelled it. Camilla will be taking an active public role in fund-raising events over the next three months as well as openly accompanying the Prince to the opera and his beloved theatre at Stratford-upon-Avon. There will be a holiday, which could even involve an organised photocall, similar to the "take your pictures and clear off" deals at Klosters but it is unlikely they will be seen together in public more than three times this year.

The two other occasions ruled out as potential T-Days were a 50th birthday party event for Prince Charles at Hampton Court Palace and the wedding of Santa Palmer-Tomkinson - the daughter of Camilla's best friend Patti. After much consultation and soul-searching it was agreed Charles and Camilla's appearance would be perceived as insensitively upstaging the wedding day. There could be no royal occasion where it would happen because of the dignitaries involved so Camilla, Charles, Mr Bolland and private secretary Stephen Lamport earmarked the 50th birthday of Camilla's sister, Annabel Elliot.

The event was considered "perfect" because Annabel is a private person who does not chase publicity. She was "delighted" to be chosen as the vehicle, which will now ironically elevate her stature to the history books, simply because it was her bash that made the splash! But the most important step in Camilla's inevitable drift towards a public debut came at a secret reception for the National Osteoporosis Society on 8 December at the south London home of Kip Forbes, a member of the Forbes publishing company. It was hosted by Camilla, Kip and Jane Weinberger, the wife of the former American defence secretary Casper Weinberger. "The idea was really to help build up



Mark Bolland, in charge of the 'Camilla factor' since before Diana's death Robin Nunn

Camilla's confidence and reassurance," said one guest. The other motive was to allow Camilla to mix with a carefully chosen group of "media types" who could help bolster her nervous spirit. They included Sir David Frost and his wife, Lady Carina, the *Daily Mail* columnist Anne Leslie, the deputy editor

of *The Sun*, Rebekah Wade, and her now ex-partner, the *EastEnders* star Ross Kemp. It has been well documented that the historic event had to take place now so as not to overshadow the 19 June wedding of Prince Edward and Sophie Rhys-Jones. And if there is another royal wedding in 10 years'

time, perhaps Mark Bolland will be best man, or perhaps he will be waiting in the wings of the TV studio as Charles and Camilla tell Chris Evans all about their love. Stuart Higgins was editor of *The Sun* from 1994-1998. He is now a media consultant.

A war in Africa provides opportunity for homegrown talent

Local journalists are providing most of the coverage of the crisis in Sierra Leone. By Alex Duval Smith

THE WAR in Sierra Leone has taken a heavy toll on journalists but in four weeks of fighting in the capital, Freetown, African correspondents have for the first time provided the most widely seen coverage of a major story on their own continent. After the death on 10 January of Myles Tierney, a US producer for Associated Press Television News, and the shooting of his Canadian colleague, Ian Stewart, one French and one Spanish journalist were abducted last week by rebels. The dangerous situation - in which at one point the BBC, which walks a tightrope in Sierra Leone, was being urged to broadcast a pro-rebel communiqué - has left many correspondents wary of travelling to the small West African country. At least 3,000 people have died in the conflict, including an Indian nun escaping rebel capture and a Sierra Leonean radio journalist. One BBC Africa Service stringer,

Lansana Fofana, has gone into hiding and two Sierra Leoneans working for local media, Jenne Cole and Mohammed Kamara, are reportedly hostages of the rebels. Throughout the first three weeks of fighting, the only television pictures beamed around the world by the BBC, CNN and others were sent by two Reuters television journalists, Jeff Koinange and Clotaire Achi, respectively Kenyan and Ivorian. *The Independent* and other daily newspapers use photographs by Seyllou Diallo, 34, of Agence France Presse's main bureau in Senegal. Koinange, the producer, and Achi, the cameraman, who were in the same ill-fated convoy as Tierney and Stewart, said that they stayed on "to keep the story in the news, for Myles's sake". Apart from a couple of reports - by a crew sent in on a

lightning visit - BBC television used Koinange and Achi's footage, scripted and voiced in London, as is standard with agency material. The BBC World Service has a strong presence in Sierra Leone. The Africa Service is the main source of information for soldiers of the Nigerian-led Ecomog - and almost certainly for the rebels, too. Along with his FN80 rifle, virtually every soldier has a small FM radio. So when two journalists, Javier Espinosa of *El Mundo*, and Patrick Saint-Paul of *Le Figaro*, were abducted in eastern Freetown last Monday, their captors decided to make use of the BBC. They released Saint-Paul with the message that Espinosa would remain in their hands until BBC Focus on Africa reported that the rebels were not responsible for mutilating civilians and were in



Clotaire Achi, (left), and Jeff Koinange Seyllou Diallo

control of Rukupa, where the journalists were abducted. Jeff Phillips, editor of news and current affairs at Bush House, said: "We would absolutely never respond

to that sort of pressure. In the event, Patrick did not contact us. We learnt of the rebels' demand only when our Madrid bureau was flooded with calls after Patrick's

story was published." Espinosa was released last Wednesday after the Spanish foreign office intervened. Last October, a former BBC World Service journalist, Hilton Fyfe, was sentenced to death in Freetown for his role in backing the military junta that controlled Sierra Leone from May 1997 to February 1998. On death row, he was released from jail by the rebels when they entered Freetown earlier this month. His whereabouts are not known. Nor is that of Fofana, one of two BBC Africa Service stringers in Freetown. He spent 13 days hiding from rebels in a ceiling in Kissey, in the east of the capital, before emerging briefly to file a report and then disappearing again. The Paris-based group Reporters Sans Frontières last week appealed to Liberia and Burkina Faso, whose

leaders are both implicated in backing the rebels - to allow journalists to work freely in Sierra Leone. African journalists take enormous risks to report news for African-based media and radio organisations such as the BBC World Service and Radio France International. Koinange and Achi, based in Freetown, Ivory Coast, do not run the same kinds of risks as stringers who live in the countries they report on and live with the consequences of what they report. But their triumph is that they have, in the last three weeks, broken through one of the "glass ceilings" of journalism. When it comes to big stories for domestic audiences, most European and US-based news rooms prefer to "send" rather than use African talent. "I do not think the London news-room realises we are black," said Koinange. They will soon. He and Achi have been invited to head office this week.

Emap's magazine guru Barry McIlheney is looking for another smash hit. By Mary Braid

Can he take the heat?

In magazine terms, today is D-Day for Barry McIlheney, 40, the Belfast-born managing director of Emap Metro, home of the magazine giant Emap's "laddish" music and film titles. *Heat*, the much-hyped new entertainment weekly for twenty and thirtysomethings, makes its first appearance on newsstands after one of the longest gestation periods in Emap's history.

But six years after *Heat* became a twinkle in the eye of several Emap executives – though it is regarded as primarily McIlheney's baby – the MD claims to be losing no sleep over its chances in a big, brutal world. He remains cool in the face of some gloomy predictions following the recent failure of a number of new magazines.

Sitting in his unexpectedly unglamorous office off London's Oxford Street, the big, rough-edged McIlheney – more bloke-down-the-pub than smooth, big-time executive – admits that the market is "tougher than a year ago", but points out that Emap Metro has suffered less than most companies.

His confidence in *Heat*, however, almost certainly owes much to another factor – McIlheney has had little personal experience of failure. Low-profile he may be, but it is McIlheney who has quietly engineered and presided over some of Emap's greatest successes.

Under his editorship, the pop magazine *Smash Hits* saw its circulation rocket from 400,000 to 1,000,000. He went on to launch the highly successful film magazine *Empire*, and he was MD of Emap Metro when the company acquired *HM*, a small-circulation, rag-trade magazine, and transformed it into a new, "laddish" monthly with a circulation of 700,000. Launched to compete with IPC's *Loaded*, it mocked its rival into a corner. In McIlheney's four years at the helm, Emap Metro, all titles with the exception of *Neon*, which closed to make way for *Heat*, have flourished.

All this information is reeled off at breakneck speed by the fast-talking Irishman. "We have done the research and hired some of the best people in town," he says. "I'm pretty confident." He expects *Heat*, its first hands-on launch since *Empire*, to have lured 100,000 readers by the summer.

The front covers of all Emap Metro's magazines are displayed proudly above his desk. One of the secrets of their success, he says, is their shared self-deprecating tone. It is a tone that might have come straight from the humorous McIl-



McIlheney hopes *Heat*'s non-anoraky mix of film and music, appealing to both sexes, will sell 100,000 a week

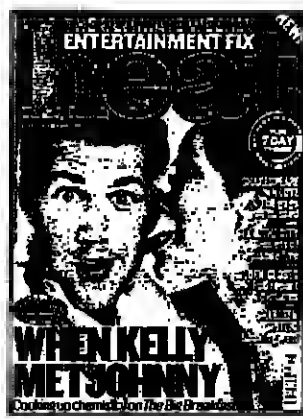
Neville Elder

heney. He started in journalism as a student reviewer for *Melody Maker*. He jokes that the period is now remembered only for the smack in the mouth he received from Kevin Rowlands of Dexy's Midnight Runners, irate over something he wrote. He admits that the switch from *Melody Maker* journalist – music bible of the truly purist – to editor of Emap Metro's teeny-bopping, trashy *Smash Hits* might have been too great a moral leap for many. "But then I was always a bit poppy," he says wryly. "...to the right of *Melody Maker*..." What the move showed, of course, was that McIlheney was as interested in the business of magazines as the writing of them.

He plays down his influence on the huge rise in *Smash Hits* circulation after he took over. "There was a bit of the luck of the Irish," he says, arguing that *Smash Hits*' success owed much to the changes taking place in pop music then. But those who watched McIlheney's rise say that it was the first sign of formidable talent, and an all-consuming passion for magazines.

He was 26 when he took over at *Smash Hits*. That was precocious, but unremarkable given the editors

who followed. Mark Frith, who is also involved in the *Heat* launch, was just 23 when he became the boss at *Smash Hits*. "You can't appoint a 14-year-old to edit *Smash Hits* – though the thought has crossed our minds," says McIlheney. "So you need someone who can still remember what 14 was like."



McIlheney believes he was lucky to find a company that nurtures talent – where enthusiasts, not dried-up accountants, invent and shape titles – and the board operates like a "benevolent bank", eager to back good ideas.

At Emap, he says, market research is important, but the idea is the starting-point for a new magazine. "Emap is the kind of company that doesn't care if you are young or old, as long as you are good."

While Emap has a "cradle-to-grave" approach to magazine publishing – with titles targeted at every age group from 10 to 70 – the average age of staff at Emap Metro is terrifyingly young. Does that worry McIlheney, now that he has reached the hideously advanced age of 40? He uses the word "groovy", for instance, but unlike most of his staff, must remember it from first time round. "It is nice to be here," he says, "for the ironic second take." He warns to the theme. One minute, he says, you are at the staff party strutting your funky stuff; the next, you are the "avuncular figure" being pulled out to the floor by the girls from the typing pool.

But he seems to have no real fear of being put out to grass. McIlheney plans to see *Heat* established in the market-place, then Emap is moving him to a position of comparable seniority in Paris.

Gone are the days when Emap could offer ambitious staff only the choice of "London, Peterborough or

Kettering". In the last five years, it has become an international company, with titles in Australia, France and the US.

So what can we expect from McIlheney in Paris? More acquisitions and launches of the entertainment and male titles that have become his trademark, he says. Will laddishness survive a Channel crossing? He believes that "10 pints and a curry and hunting in packs" will always be around in Britain, but he is not sure it will translate directly to France. It may be, of course, that Frenchmen are more highly evolved than their British counterparts? That's the trouble with women over 30, says McIlheney: they just don't get laddish irony.

But there will be nothing laddish about *Heat*, which must win over men and women. McIlheney believes there is a gap in the market for a magazine that covers both music and film. In the late Nineties, he says, specialist knowledge in just one area is judged "anoraky".

The only question now, he says, is: will 100,000 a week go out and buy it? Will it allow McIlheney to board the train for Paris a happy man this summer, or will *Heat*, as some predict, be his first taste of failure?

THE WORD ON THE STREET

DESPITE ITS egalitarian pretensions, *The Guardian* seems to take the same attitude to small competitors as the Murdoch empire.

Both *The Guardian's* education section and the *Times Educational Supplement* have refused to run an advert from *Teaching Today*, a new website carrying daily education news.

The TES had to run a filler last Friday when the ad was pulled at the last minute, while *The Guardian's* sales team confessed the decision to refuse *Teaching Today's* ad had come from the very top of the paper.

Teaching Today has written to the Office of Fair Trading and we're sure this David and Goliath battle will get the coverage it deserves.

DAVID MONTGOMERY'S departure from Mirror Group may have come too late to save the career of one of his great rivals. German business magazines were forecasting last week that Gus Fischer would have to step down as chairman of Axel Springer Verlag because of his failure to take over Mirror Group last year. It seems a harsh punishment for the ex-News International boss.

If every executive who had failed to take out Monty was given his cards there would only be Victor Blank left in the business.

JOURNALIST ANDREW Jennings should be feeling pretty good this week. Mr Jennings was the author of a 1992 book, *The Lords of the Rings: Power, Money and Drugs in the Modern Olympics*, which made all the allegations that the IOC "discovered" last week when it expelled six members for corruption. The IOC has even said it will at last give Mr Jennings accreditation to Olympic events and press conferences.

Out of pique it has refused to do so for years. Not only that but Olympic president Juan Samaranch sued him for libel in 1992 and Mr Jennings was sentenced to a five-day prison sentence in his absence by a court in Lausanne.

But an apology is the best Mr Jennings is likely to get. Under Swiss law the IOC is



conveniently immune from legal actions so he cannot sue them back.

IT IS often lamented by the left-of-centre press that a left-of-centre government has done nothing for the circulation of a magazine like the *New Statesman*. Well sales may not be affected by changing governments, but advertising revenue certainly is. The current issue of the NS contains a mysterious-looking advert from a company called Wizard. Under the banner "Making joint military operations a success" is a picture that looks suspiciously like a reconnaissance picture of military targets. Hardly fitting for the NS's lefty readership you might have thought. But you would be wrong. Wizard is a radar system backed by defence contractors British Aerospace and Northrop, among others, and it is pitching for a juicy new government contract. If only one backbench Labour MP spots the ad and mentions it to a defence procurement minister it will be money well spent.

THE SUNDAY Telegraph leader this Sunday lamented that newspapers had allowed themselves to be dominated by the musings of Glenn Hoddle on reincarnation. His views, pontificated the paper, were "not as preposterous and offensive as the spectacle of people treating them as being of great importance".

Can this be the same Sunday Telegraph which carried a front-page story on Hoddle, a p21 full-page news focus on the England coach's strange beliefs and a sports-page editorial accusing him of having lost the last shred of credibility? How preposterous and offensive of it.

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Application forms and further details of each post may be obtained from Gail Burborough. Telephone (01983) 823870, or write to her at Isle of Wight Tourism, Westridge Centre, Brading Road, Ryde, Isle of Wight PO33 1DS or visit www.isle-of-wight-tourism.gov.uk. Closing date: Friday 12th February 1999.



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NEW FILMS

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (15)
Director: Guy Maddin
Starring: Gwyneth Paltrow, Joseph Fiennes
See *The Independent Recommends*, right.
West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, Notting Hill Cinema, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

STEPMOM (12)
Director: Chris Columbus
Starring: Susan Sarandon, Julia Roberts
Notebooks out for your authentic Mom Movie recipe. Lay a pastry of wisecracks, add tears and shrink wrapped life lessons, then ice it all off with a dedication to the director's own "mom". Stepmom skimps on nothing. This sugar-glazed, oven-ready affair casts an out-of-sorts Susan Sarandon as a middle-aged matriarch squabbling over her offspring with the new model mom (Julia Roberts) that hubby Ed Harris has hooked up with. The first mom gets poorly and laughter turns to tears (or at least weary resignation). Sad but true, mothers die too. Didn't your mom teach you anything?
West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea. And local cinemas

TWO GIRLS AND A GUY (15)
Director: James Toback
Starring: Robert Downey Jr, Heather Graham
James Toback's taut *ménage à trois* drama prowls edgily around its lone loft-space location

and probes aggressively at the psychological make-up of its three central characters. Heather Graham and Natasha Gregson Warner are the duped girlfriends of Robert Downey Jr's love-rat prima donna, and Two Girls and a Guy gives them plenty of room to move and breathe, turning the resulting yarn into a pungent acting showcase. Toback's picture is essentially filmed theatre, and struggles to sustain itself throughout a feature-length running time. That said, the vibrant writing and moody atmospherics cast a considerable spell.
West End: Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket. Local: Warner Village Finchley Road

VERY BAD THINGS (18)
Director: Peter Berg
Starring: Christian Slater, Cameron Diaz
A bunch of stag-weekenders accidentally kill a Las Vegas whore, intentionally murder the security guard who rumbles the crime, then start coming apart at the seams on their arrival home. Peter Berg's debut serves up swaggaring, gross-out comedy in a Loaded magazine style, but it's finally a film with nowhere to go save from shrill to shriller to shrillest. More crucially, you're never quite sure whether Berg is satirising their rapacious white males or merely indulging them in their thirtysomething kicks. Virtuosic nastiness, plus some full-throttle acting from Daniel Stern (as the gang's most guilt-ridden member) and Cameron Diaz (a ball-breaking fiancée) lend the mess a certain shameful allure.
West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

Xan Brooks

GENERAL RELEASE

THE ACID HOUSE (18)
A trio of interrelated shorts culled from the stories of Irvine Welsh. Less poised and populist than *Trainspotting*, but more edgy and intense, too. West End: Odeon Camden Town

BULWORTH (18)
Dog-tired and disillusioned at the end of a campaign, senator Jay Bulworth (Warren Beatty) turns suicidal loose cannon, lifting the lid on US politics, hanging out in the 'hood and delivering his speeches in abrasive rap styles. Trude and condescending on occasion, yet genuinely audacious and committed, too.
West End: Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho, Odeon Kensington, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

CLASS TRIP (LA CLASSE DE NEIGE) (15)
This pungent child's-eye psycho-drama switches nervously between stark naturalism and florid dream sequences.
West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue Repertory, Cine Lumiere

THE DREAM LIFE OF ANGELS (18)
See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: ABC Swiss Centre

ELIZABETH (15)
Sheikh Kapur's story of a woman struggling to gain purchase in a male world largely neglects the opportunities for fun in a story of independence triumphing over cruelty.
West End: ABC Pantons Street, Curzon Minima, Odeon Mezzanine Repertory, The Lux Cinema, National Film Theatre, Phoenix Cinema, Riverside Studios Cinema

ENEMY OF THE STATE (15)
Will Smith's fall-guy DA teams up with Gene Hackman's pensioned-off Pentagon warhorse in this big, noisy and effectively claustrophobic conspiracy thriller.
West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Mezzanine, Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

54 (15)
Mark Christopher's retro-trip through the heyday of New York's Studio 54 boasts a glitterball turn from Mike Myers (as club-boss Steve Rubell) but not a whole lot else. This is a garbled, undeveloped run-through of dance-floor chic as Ryan Phillippe's colourless busboy falls in with the beautiful folk and learns the downside of life in the fast lane. Tuff stuff, all told.
West End: Odeon Camden Town, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End, Local: Dagenham Warner Village, Edmonton Lee Valley UCI 12, UCI Surrey Quays

HANA-BI (18)
Violent yet elegiac portrait of a brutal Japanese policeman pushed over the edge. Its dreamlike style makes it strangely moving.
Local: Beckenham Studio, Greenwich Cinema

HILARY AND JACKIE (15)
Nail-thriller playing from Rachel Griffiths and Emily Watson sustains Anand Tucker's warts-and-all biopic of the Du Pré sisters Hilary (sby: married flautist) and Jacqueline (world-famous cellist). Sibling rivalries, a *ménage à trois* and terminal illness are all carefully navigated by Tucker's finely-wrought direction, though it's as an acting showcase that the film really hits home.
West End: Barbican Screen, Chelsea Cinema, Clapham Picture House, Curzon Mayfair, Curzon Soho, Gale Notting Hill, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Renoir, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Hill. And local cinemas

LITTLE VOICE (15)
Toiled up in her room, Jane Horrocks perfects Shirley Bassey/Judy Garland impersonations. Braicing black comedy, Horrocks's vocal pyrotechnics, plus a marvelously weighted urn from Michael Caine succeed in pushing it through to the final curtain.
West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road Repertory, Phoenix Cinema. And local cinemas

THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG)
This gaudy swashbuckler gallops full-speed through 19th-century California in the company of Antonio Banderas's authentically Hispanic do-gooder.
West End: Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Virgin Fulham Road, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

MEET JOE BLACK (12)
Picking his way through Martin Brest's underdeveloped rehaul of *Death Takes a Holiday* goes Brad Pitt's aquiline Grim Reaper, who gets capered round the everyday delights of planet Earth by Anthony Hopkins' dying billionaire. The film has a few neat themes and a reliably solid turn from Hopkins, but it is too much a picture of disparate pieces.
West End: Empire Leicester Square, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

MY NAME IS JOE (15)
Ken Loach's solid social-realist drama tells the tale of Joe (Peter Mullan), a recovering alcoholic torn between his old life (drugs, crime) and his new (a romance with Louise Goodall's middle-class health visitor). *My Name is Joe* brilliantly spotlights the groping hopes and thwarted ambitions of a Britain caught below the poverty line.
West End: ABC Pantons Street Local: Bealheath Cinesworld Repertory, Watermans Arts Centre

THE OPPOSITE OF SEX (18)
See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Warner Village West End, Local: Croydon Warner Village, Edmonton Lee Valley UCI 12, Feltham Cinesworld, The Movies, Warner Village Finchley Road, UCI Surrey Quays

CHELSEA CINEMA (15)
Starring: Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE (15)
Starring: Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

CURZON MAYFAIR (15)
Starring: Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

CURZON MINIMA (15)
Starring: Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

CURZON SOHO (15)
Starring: Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE (15)
Starring: Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

GATE NOTTING HILL (15)
Starring: Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN (15)
Starring: Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET (15)
Starring: Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN (15)
Starring: Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (U)
In planning his cartoon life of Moses, DreamWorks honcho Jeffrey Katzenberg envisaged it "painted by Claude Monet and photographed by David Lean". The end result ends up looking more like *The Ten Commandments* by way of Joseph and his Technicolor Dreamcoat.
West End: Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

THE TRUMAN SHOW (PG)
See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: Plaza, Ritzy Cinema

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

The Opposite of Sex (18)
Christina Ricci (right) plays 16-year-old bitch-on-wheels Dedee, causing havoc when she moves in with her brother (Martin Donovon).



Shakespeare in Love (15)
This enjoyable romp suggests how romance fired Shakespeare with the creative inspiration for *Romeo and Juliet*. Joseph Fiennes and Gwyneth Paltrow head a multi-star cast.

The Dream Life of Angels (18)
Erick Zovca's remarkable debut draws its strength from the contrasting personalities of Isa (Eloïse Boucher) and Marie (Natacha Regnier), whose friendship comes alive in Lille.

The Truman Show (PG)
Peter Weir's ingenious, unsettling fantasy is, in the end, an escape movie - in the case of Truman Burbank (Jim Carrey), it's breaking out of the round-the-clock TV docu-soap that is his own life.

ANTHONY QUINN

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

The Colour of Justice (Tricycle Theatre)
Potent re-enactment of the Stephen Lawrence inquiry, coinciding with the furor surrounding the fate of the policeman involved in the case. To 6 Feb

The Street of Crocodiles (Queen's Theatre)
Triumphant revival of Theatre de Complicite's surreal and searing plunge into the imagination of Polish-Jewish writer Bruno Schulz. To 20 Feb

Oklahoma! (Lyceum Theatre)
Widely regarded as the best ever, Trevor Nunn's glorious production of the Rogers and Hammerstein classic fully deserves its West End transfer. To 26 Jun

The Winter's Tale (RSC, Stratford)
An amazingly rich and complex performance from Antony Sher to Gregory Doran's Romanov-style production. In rep to 4 Mar

Martin Guerre (West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds)
It's third time lucky for this much-revitalised musical (right). In Conall Morrison's starkly involving production, it finally emerges as a tighter, magnificent show. To 13 Feb



PAUL TAYLOR

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Monet in the 20th Century (Royal Academy)
The gardens at Giverny dissolve into elemental visions: fiery lights, haze, liquid reflections, wild and depths. The strange last works of Impressionism. To 18 Apr

Portraits by Ingres (National Gallery)
Some of the smartest, most intense portraiture ever. The icons of power. Women: exquisite mixtures of flesh and fabric, dreams of sex and money. Images of triumph borne in luxury. To 25 Apr

Andreas Gursky (Serpentine Gallery)
Photographs 1993-98: wide-views, high-finish, and-tailed vistas of our world - stock-exchange floor, airport, the sea - images filled with more than the eye can see. To 1 Mar

Disasters of Art (Wolfe, Art Gallery)
"I saw this" - three ages of European war through the etchings of Jacques Callot. Goya (right) and Otto Dix. Visions from the blacked-out times. To 29 Mar



Willie Doherty (MoMA, Oxford)
"Somewhere Else" a witty, multi-screen video installation by this leading Irish artist, reflects on sectarian terror and state security. To 4 Apr

TOM LEBROK

CINEMA

WEST END

ABC PANTONS STREET (15)
Starring: Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

ABC PICCADILLY (15)
Starring: Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE (15)
Starring: Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE (15)
Starring: Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

ABC TOTENHAM COURT ROAD (15)
Starring: Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

BARBICAN SCREEN (15)
Starring: Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

CHELSEA CINEMA (15)
Starring: Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE (15)
Starring: Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

CURZON MAYFAIR (15)
Starring: Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

CURZON MINIMA (15)
Starring: Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

CURZON SOHO (15)
Starring: Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE (15)
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GATE NOTTING HILL (15)
Starring: Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN (15)
Starring: Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET (15)
Starring: Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN (15)
Starring: Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

ODEON KENSINGTON (15)
Starring: Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH (15)
Starring: Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

ODEON KENSINGTON (15)
Starring: Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE (15)
Starring: Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH (15)
Starring: Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

ODEON MEZZANINE (15)
Starring: Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE (15)
Starring: Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

ODEON TROCADERO (15)
Starring: Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

ODEON WEST END (15)
Starring: Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

ODEON WHITELEYS (15)
Starring: Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

ODEON WIMBLEDON (15)
Starring: Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

ODEON WOODFORD GREEN (15)
Starring: Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

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ODEON WOODFORD GREEN (15)
Starring: Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

RICHMOND
ODEON (08705 050007) BR/4
Richmond Little Voice 2pm,
4.20pm, 7pm, 9.30pm Shakespeare
in Love 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 6.30pm,
9.10pm Stepmom 2.10pm, 6pm,
8.50pm

ODEON STUDIO (08705 050007)
BR/4 Richmond Little Voice 2.10pm,
6pm, 8.10pm, 9.30pm Stepmom
2.10pm, 6pm, 8.10pm, 9.30pm
Black 8.20pm Practical Magic
1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 9.20pm
Very Bad Things 2.20pm, 4.40pm,
7.10pm, 9.30pm

ROCHFORD
ABC (0870-9020419) BR/Romford
Practical Magic 2.30pm, 5.55pm,
8.25pm The Siege 2.25pm,
5.30pm, 8.10pm Very Bad Things
2.15pm, 5.40pm, 8.40pm

ODEON LIBERTY 2 (08705
050007) BR/Romford Enemy of
the State 3pm, 8.20pm Little
Voice 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm,
8.50pm The Mask of Zorro
12.15pm, 5.40pm, 8.15pm, 10.20pm
12.30pm, 4pm, 7.30pm Practical
Magic 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm,
8.30pm Shakespeare in Love
12.30pm, 2.30pm, 5.30pm,
8.55pm The Siege 2.30pm,
5.40pm, 8.10pm, 9.30pm
8.40pm Star Trek: Insurrection
1.30pm, 6.30pm Stepmom
12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.15pm
Very Bad Things 2pm, 4.15pm,
6.35pm, 8.55pm

SIDCUP
ABC (0541-555131) BR/Sidcup Little
Voice 6pm, 8.40pm

STAPLES CORNER
VIRGIN (0870-9070717) BR/Crick-
lewood Enemy of the State 1pm,
3.40pm, 6.25pm, 9.10pm Little
Voice 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 7pm Prac-
tical Magic 1.30pm, 3.40pm,
6.45pm, 9.10pm Shakespeare in
Love 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.50pm
The Siege 2.20pm Stepmom 1pm,
4.45pm, 5.35pm, 8.25pm Star
Trek: Insurrection 2.15pm, 4.30pm,
6.45pm

STREATHAM
ABC (0870-9020415) BR/
Streatham Hill Antz 5.45pm Meet
Joe Black 2.10pm, 7.35pm Psycho
8.55pm Shakespeare in Love
2.25pm, 5.35pm, 8.25pm Star
Trek: Insurrection 2.15pm, 4.30pm,
6.45pm

ODEON (08705 050007) BR/
Streatham Hill/Brickton/Clapham
Common Bulworth 6.10pm Enemy
of the State 12.10pm, 2.55pm,
8.25pm Little Voice 1.20pm,
3.40pm, 6pm, 8.20pm Practical
Magic 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6pm,
8.30pm Stepmom 12.20pm, 3pm,
5.40pm, 8.20pm Very Bad Things
1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

STRATFORD
NEW STRATFORD PICTURE
HOUSE (0181-555 3366) BR/4
Stratford East Bulworth 6.50pm
Practical Magic 2pm, 4.15pm,
6.35pm, 9pm Shakespeare in Love
12.55pm, 3.25pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
Stepmom 1pm, 3.35pm, 6.10pm,
8.45pm Very Bad Things 1.30pm,
4pm, 9.10pm

SURREY QUAYS
UCI (0990 888990) BR/Surrey
Quays Bulworth 7pm Enemy of the
State 3.30pm, 9.40pm Little Voice
4pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm Meet Joe
Black 4.45pm, 8.25pm The Oppo-
site of Sex 4.20pm, 7.10pm,
9.30pm Practical Magic 3.50pm,
6.20pm, 8.40pm Shakespeare in
Love 3.10pm, 6pm, 9pm The Siege
9.40pm Stepmom 1.20pm,
6.10pm, 9.10pm Twilight 4.10pm,
6.40pm Very Bad Things 5pm,
7.20pm, 9.55pm

SUTTON
UCI 6 (0990-888990) BR/Sutton
UCI 6 Morden Enemy of the State
6.45pm, 9.30pm Little Voice
4.10pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm The Para-
sit 3.55pm Practical Magic
3.25pm, 9.30pm Shakespeare in
Love 3.40pm, 6.35pm, 9.15pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 4.40pm
Stepmom 3.10pm, 6.10pm, 9pm
Twilight 7pm Very Bad Things
7.15pm, 9.50pm

TURNPIKE LANE
CORONET (0181-888 2519) BR/
Turnpike Lane Bulworth 3.45pm,
6pm, 8.35pm The Siege 3.35pm,
6pm, 8.30pm Very Bad Things
3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

URBRIDGE
ODEON (08705 050007) BR/
Urbridge Practical Magic 1.50pm,
4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm Stepmom
1.40pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm

WALTHAMSTON
ABC (0870-9020424) BR/Waltham-
ston Central Little Voice 1.30pm,
4.10pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm Meet Joe
Black 2.10pm, 7.20pm Very Bad
Things 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.05pm,
8.35pm

WALTON ON THAMES
THE SCREEN AT WALTON (01932-
252825) BR/Walton on Thames
Shakespeare in Love 3.10pm,
5.45pm, 8.15pm Stepmom
2.50pm, 5.45pm, 8.15pm

WELL HALL
CORONET (0181-850 3351) BR/
Eltham Meet Joe Black 2.10pm,
7.25pm Shakespeare in Love
3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

WILLESDEAN
BELLSVOLE (0181-830 0822) BR/
Willesdean Green Meet Joe Black
4.45pm, 8.15pm

WIMBLEDON
ODEON (08705 050007) BR/Wim-
bledon/4 South Wimbledon
Enemy of the State 2.10pm,
8.20pm Little Voice 2.05pm,
4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm Meet Joe
Black 4.45pm Practical Magic
1.35pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.20pm, 3.20pm,
2.55pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm Stepmom
2.30pm, 5.35pm, 8.25pm

WOODFORD
ABC (0181-889 3463) BR/South
Woodford Little Voice 2.10pm,
4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm Shake-
speare in Love 2.40pm, 5.20pm,
8.10pm Very Bad Things 1.55pm,
4.05pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm

WOOLWICH
CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR/
Woolwich Arsenal Little Voice
4.15pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm Practical
Magic 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm

WOOD GREEN
NEW CINEMA (0181-347 6664) BR/
Turnpike Lane AA AB Late Cinema
2pm, 5.30pm, 8.45pm

CINEMA

REPERTORY

LONDON
ONE LUMIERE Queensberry Place,
SW7 (0171-838 2144/2146) Classe
de Nègre (Class Trip) (NC) 6.30pm
A La Campagne (NC) 8.30pm

KCA CINEMA The Mall, SW1 (0171-
930 3547) Pata Mice (NC) 5pm,
9pm La Rubia del Bar (NC) 7pm
The Polygraph (NC) 8.30pm

NFT South Bank, SE1 (0171-928
3232) Elizabeth (15) 2.30pm Like
a Bird on a Wire/Germany in Au-
tumn: Fassbinder (NC) 6.15pm
Scaramouche (NC) 6.30pm OSS,
Soyuzdetna and Espionage: Tele-
vision (NC) 7.30pm Mother Nusters
Goes to Heaven: Fassbinder (NC)
8.30pm Transcendence: A Portrait
of Lars Von Trier (NC) 8.45pm (+
Short)

PHOENIX High Road, N2 (0181-444
6789) Little Voice (15) 2.15pm,
6.45pm (+F) (15) 4.30pm, 9pm

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place,
WC2 (0171-437 8181) Henry Ford
(18) 1pm Snake Eyes (15) 4pm
Lethal Weapon 4 (15) 6.15pm The
Wedding Singer (12) 9pm

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS Crisp Road,
W6 (0171-420 0100) Kinky (18)
[12] 6.45pm (+F) Postino
8.50pm

WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE High
Street, Brentford, Middlesex (0181-
568 1176) On Connaught in Cham-
pagn (PG) 4.45pm, 9pm My Name is Joe
(15) 7pm

BRIGHTON
DUKE OF YORKS (01273-602503)
Two Girls and a Guy (18) 2.30pm,
6.45pm, Wed 3.45pm The Oppo-
site of Sex (18) 4.30pm, 8.45pm

BRISTOL
CUBE (0114-907 4191) Year of the
Horse (15) 8.30pm

WATERSHED (0117-925 3945)
Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas (18)
6pm Macgregor (NC) 6.05pm Fire
(15) 8.30pm (+F) (15) 8.40pm

CAMBRIDGE
ARTS (01223-504444) The Oppo-
site of Sex (18) 1.15pm, 9.30pm
(+F) (15) 3.30pm, 7.30pm The
Battleship Potemkin (PG) 5pm

CHICHESTER
NEW PARK FILM CENTRE (01243-
766550) Little Voice (15) 2.15pm,
5.45pm, 8.10pm, 9.30pm
Fanny Gates (18) 9pm

NORWICH
CINEMA CITY (01603-622047)
Rien Ne Plus (15) 2.30pm,
5.45pm A Soldier's Daughter
Never Cries (18) 8.15pm

CINEMA

COUNTRYWIDE

BATH
ABC CINEMA (01225-461730)
Shakespeare in Love (15)

LITTLE THEATRE (01225-466822)
Babe: Pig in the City (U); Bulworth
(18); Little Voice (15); The Mask
of Zorro (PG)

ROBINSON CINEMA (01225-461506)
Practical Magic (12); Stepmom
(12); The Swan Princess (U); Two
Girls and a Guy (18)

CAMBRIDGE
WARNER VILLAGE (01223-
460442) Antz (PG); Babe: Pig in
the City (U); Bulworth (18); En-
emy of the State (15); Little Voice
(15); The Mask of Zorro (PG); Meet
Joe Black (12); The Parent Trap
(PG); Practical Magic (12); The
Prince of Egypt (U); Rush Hour
(15); Shakespeare in Love (15);
Small Soldiers (PG); Star Trek: In-
surrection (PG); Stepmom (12);
Very Bad Things (18)

COLCHESTER
ODEON (08705-050007); Antz
(PG); Dr Dolittle (PG); Enemy of
the State (15); The Exorcist (25th
Anniversary Release) (18); Little
Voice (15); The Mask of Zorro
(PG); Meet Joe Black (12); Mulan
(U); The Parent Trap (PG); Prac-
tical Magic (12); The Prince of
Egypt (U); Rush Hour (15);
Shakespeare in Love (15); Small
Soldiers (PG); Star Trek: In-
surrection (PG); Stepmom (12)

DOVER
SILVER SCREEN (01304-228000)
Babe: Pig in the City (U); The Prince
of Egypt (U); The Siege (15)

HEREFORD
ABC (01432-272554); Little Voice
(15); Star Trek: Insurrection (PG)

THE COURTYARD (01432-353252)
The Last Days of Disco (15)

IPSWICH
VIRGIN CINEMA (0870-9070748)
Antz (PG); Babe: Pig in the City (U);
Enemy of the State (15); Little
Voice (15); The Mask of Zorro (PG);
Meet Joe Black (12); The Parent
Trap (PG); Practical Magic (12);
The Prince of Egypt (U); Shakespeare
in Love (15); The Siege (15); The
Soldier (Asian Film) (15); Star Trek:
Insurrection (PG); Stepmom (12);
Very Bad Things (18)

MAIDSTONE
VIRGIN CINEMA (0870-9020405)
Little Voice (15); Meet Joe Black
(12); The Parent Trap (PG); Shake-
speare in Love (15)

ODEON LOCHMEADOW (08705-
050007); Antz (PG); Dr Dolittle
(PG); Enemy of the State (15); Little
Voice (15); The Mask of Zorro
(PG); Meet Joe Black (12); Mulan
(U); Practical Magic (12); The
Prince of Egypt (U); Shakespeare
in Love (15); Small Soldiers (PG);
Star Trek: Insurrection (PG); Step-
mom (12); Velvet Goldmine (18);
Very Bad Things (18)

OXFORD
ABC GEORGE STREET (0541-
550501); Enemy of the State
(15); The Parent Trap (PG); Prac-
tical Magic (12); The Prince of
Egypt (U); Star Trek: Insurrection
(PG); Very Bad Things (18)

PHOENIX PICTURE HOUSE
(01865-245288); The Change of the
Light Brigade (NC); The Exorcist
II - The Heretic (18); Lock, Stock
& Two Smoking Barrels (18); My
Name is Joe (15); The Truman
Show (PG)

ULTIMATE PICTURE PALACE
(01865-245288); The Change of the
Light Brigade (NC); The Exorcist
II - The Heretic (18); Lock, Stock
& Two Smoking Barrels (18); My
Name is Joe (15); The Truman
Show (PG)

THEATRE

WEST END

Ticket availability details are for to-
day, times and prices for the week
running times include intervals. ©
Seats at all prices. © Returns only
Matinee: [1] Sun, [3] Tue, [4]
Wed, [5] Thur, [6] Fri, [7] Sat

ALARMS AND EXCURSIONS
Michael Frayn's new comedy about a
dinner party which is interrupted
by mysterious messages from Re-
becca's dead mother and father.
Gielgud Theatre, 31-33 Shaftesbury
Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) © Picc
Circ, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5] 7.30pm, [1]
£27.50 £12.50-£17.50 (restricted
views), 130 mins.

AMADEUS David Booth stars as
Salieri in Peter Shaffer's acclaimed
drama. Old Vic Theatre, SE1 (0171-
928 7616) £12.50-£20.00 BR/4 Wa-
terloo, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 7.30pm,
[1] 2.30pm, £7.50-£30, 160 mins.

ANNIE Back to riches story of the
optimistic orphan, Victoria Palace
Theatre, SW1 (0171-834 1317) BR/4
Victoria, Tue-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 7.30pm,
[1] 2.30pm, £12.50-£30, 165 mins.

ART Tim Mammion, Danny Webb,
Gary Olsen in Tim Mammion's com-
edy about art and friendship. Wynd-
ham's Charing Cross Road, WC2
(0171-369 1736) £67 1111) © Picc
Circ, Tue-Sat 8pm, [4] 8pm, [7] 7.30pm,
[1] 2.30pm, £18.50-£95, 150 mins.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Lavinia
family musical based on Disney's
cartoon version of the famous fairy
tale. Dominion Tottenham Court
Road, W1 (0171-656 1888) © Picc
Circ, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5] 7.30pm,
[1] 2.30pm, £18.50-£95, 150 mins.

BLOOD BROTHERS Billy Russell's
long-running Liverpool musical
about the lives of two boys who are
separated at birth. Phoenix Theatre,
Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1733)
© Picc C/Sat 8pm, [7] 4pm, [1] 5.50pm,
£32.50, 165 mins.

BUDDY Musical about a boy tracing
the brief life of Buddy Holly.
Strand Palace, WC2 (0171-930 8800)
© Covent Garden/Charing X,
Tue-Thur 8pm, Fri 5.30pm &
8.30pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30pm, mats
[1] 4pm, £12-£27, half price Friday
matinee, 160 mins.

CATS Lloyd Webber's musical ver-
sion of T.S. Eliot's poems. New Lon-
don Palace Theatre, WC2 (0171-405
0072) £40 4079) © Picc C/Sat 8pm,
Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5] 7.30pm,
[3] 7.30pm, £12.50-£35, 165 mins.

CHICAGO Maria Friedman and
Peter Davidson star in this hit Broadway
musical about two murderous
women and their night club act. Adelphi
Maiden Lane, WC2 (0171-344 0055)
© Charing X, Mon-Sat 8pm,
mats [1] 4pm, £16-£36 (inc booking
fee), 130 mins.

**THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF
AMERICA** (American) Reduced
Shakespeare Company's knowl-
edge-packed theatrical history lesson.
Criterion Piccadilly Circus, W1
(0171-369 1747) © Picc C/Circ, Tue-
Sat, £6-£25, 120 mins.

DR DOLITTLE Philip Schofield
talks to the animals in this new
stage adaptation featuring Jim Hen-
son Puppets. London Apollo The-
atre, 111 Tottenham Court Road, W1
(0171-416 6022) © Hammer-
smith, Tue-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 7.30pm,
[1] 2.30pm, £10-£32.50, 150 mins.

THE GLOW OF LIVING DREAMS
Set amongst the trailer parks of
southern America from new play-
wright Rebecca Gilman. Royal Court
Upstairs (at the Ambassadors)
West Street, WC2 (0171-565 5000)
© Picc C/Circ, Mon-Sat 8pm, 10pm,
concs £5.

GREASE Energetic stage version
of the hit film about life in an Ameri-
can high school. Cambridge Theatre,
St. Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-494 5080)
© Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7.30pm,
[4] 7.30pm, £10-£30, 150 mins.

AN IDEAL HUSBAND Christopher
Cazenove and Susannah York
in Peter Hall's acclaimed production
of Wilde's comedy. Lyric Theatre,
Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045) ©
Picc C/Circ, Tue-Sat 8pm, [4] 8pm,
[7] 4pm, £8.50-£29.50, 165
mins.

AN INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen
Daldry's well-acclaimed produc-
tion of J.B. Priestley's thriller. Garrick
Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494
5085) © Picc C/Circ, Mon-Fri 7.45pm,
Sat 8.15pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 5pm,
£12-£25.0, 110 mins.

INTO THE WOODS Sondheim
and Lapine's acclaimed musical
based on fairytales. Dominion The-
atre, 31-33 Shaftesbury Avenue, W1
(0171-369 1732) © Covent Garden,
Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 7.30pm, [1]
2.30pm, £15-£27.50.

THE INVENTION OF LOVE Tim
Stoppard's play about the life of poet
A.E. Housman. Comedy Theatre,
St. Martin's Lane, W1 (0171-369
1734) © Picc C/Circ, Mon-Sat 8pm,
[4] 8pm, [7] 4pm, £8.50-£29.50, 110
mins.

JESUS, MY BOY Tim Coot stars
in John Dowie's alternative Chris-
tmas story. Apollo Theatre, 111
Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-494
5070) © Picc C/Circ, Tue-Fri 8pm,
Sat 5pm & 8pm, [1] 3pm, ends 6 Feb,
£5.50-£18.50.

KAFKA'S DICK Eric Sykes and
Julia Macdonald star in Alan Ben-
nett's comedy about the moribund
bureaucrat Denham Street, W1
(0171-369 1734) © Picc C/Circ, Mon-
Fri 8pm, ends 26 Feb, £12-£30.

**LITTLE MALCOLM AND HIS
STRUGGLE AGAINST THE RU-
NCHES** Simon McGrath stars as the
revolutionary activist in David Hal-
low's drama. Comedy Theatre,
St. Martin's Lane, W1 (0171-369
1734) © Picc C/Circ, Mon-Sat 8pm,
[5] 7.30pm, ends 13 Mar, £7-
£27.50.

LORD OF THE FLIES Stage ver-
sion of William Golding's classic tale
of schoolboys living on a deserted is-
land. Lyric Hammersmith King
Street, W6 (0181-741 2311) ©
Hammersmith, Mon-Sat 7.30pm,
ends 6 Feb, £5-£16.

THE MEMORY OF WATER Al-
ison Steadman and Julia Savatelli
star in this touching comedy about
three sisters returning home for
their mother's funeral. Vaudeville
Theatre, WC2 (0171-836 9987)
© Charing X, Mon-Sat 8pm,
[5] 7.30pm, £8-£27.50.

LES MISÉRABLES Musical
dramatisation of Victor Hugo's mas-
terpiece. Palace Theatre, Shaftesbury
Avenue, W1 (0171-434 0905) © Picc C/Circ,
Mon-Sat 7.30pm, ends 6 Feb, £8.

£7-£35, 195 mins.

MISS SAMSON Musical which re-
tells the Modern Daffy tragedy to
Vietnam. Theatre Royal, Drury
Lane, Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-
494 5060) © Covent Garden, Mon-
Sat 7.45pm, [4] 7.30pm, £37.5-£35,
165 mins.

THE MOUSETRAP Agatha
Christie's whodunnit. Theatre Royal,
West Street, WC2 (0171-836 1643)
© Picc C/Circ, Mon-Sat 8pm, [3]
2.45pm, [7] 5pm, £10-£24.50, 135
mins.

ORLANDO Maureen Lipman
stars in the National's acclaimed pro-
duction of Rodgers and Hammer-
stein's cowboy western musical.
Lyceum Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue,
WC2 (0171-836 1643) © Picc C/Circ,
Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 7.30pm, ends 26
June, £10-£35.

**THE PHANTOM OF THE
OPERA** Andrew Lloyd Webber's
Gothic musical. Her Majesty's The-
atre, SW1 (0171-494 5400) © Picc
Circ, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4] 7.30pm, £10-£35,
150 mins.

RENT Musical inspired by La Bo-
hème and set in modern day New
York. Shaftesbury Theatre, Shaftes-
bury Avenue, WC2 (0171-494 5400)
© Charing X/Embarkment, Mon-Sat
7.30pm, [4] 7.30pm, ends 26
June, £10-£35.

RICHARD III Robert Lindsay stars
as the historical villain. Swan Theatre,
WC2 (0171-836 8884) £86 0479)
© Charing X/Embarkment, Mon-Sat
7.30pm, [7] 2.30pm, £10-£27.50,
7.30pm, [7] 2.30pm, £10-£27.50.

ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE
OLIVER: Peter Pan Stephen Oliver
and his musical accompanies the tale
of the Boy Who Would Not Grow Up,
with Michael Bryant as the Story-
teller. In rep, tonight 7.15pm, ends 9
Mar, 180 mins.

LYTELTON: The Forest Alan Ay-
ckerton's new version of O'Casey's
black social satire stars Frances de
la Tour. In rep, today 2.15pm &
7.30pm. Oliver & Lytelton: £8-£27.
Day seats from 10am. South Bank
Theatre, (0171-452 3000). © BR/Wa-
terloo.

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE
O THE BARBARIAN: The Merchant
of Venice BSC production of Shake-
speare's drama about love and mon-
ey. In rep, tonight 7.15pm, ends 9
Mar, 180 mins.

THE PIT: Shadows Riders to
the Sea & The Shadow of the Wind
Purgatory Theatre of drama by
W. G. Sebald and J. M. Coetzee. In
rep, tonight 7.15pm, ends 27 Mar.
Barbican Theatre: £5-£27. The Pit: £11-
£18.50. Barbican Centre, EC2
(0171-638 8891).

SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER BR
1975 musical featuring legendary
songs by the Bee Gees and starring
Adrienne Corbin. Adelphi Theatre,
411 Strand, W1 (0171-494 5020) ©
Oxford Circus, Mon-Sat 7.30pm,
[4] 7.30pm, £10-£32.50, 135
mins.

STARLIGHT EXPRESS Andrew
Lloyd Webber's hit-tech roller-musical.
Apollo Victoria Theatre, SW1
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